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The Arabian Year Book 1987/88

5th Edition

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Administrative reform top priority

Deal firmly with laxity: Premier

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah asked the ministers to deal firmly with slackness in work and to take all legal measures against laxity.

Sheikh Saad was yesterday addressing the cabinet after the recent reshuffle.

He told the members of the new cabinet that a great deal remains to be done to cope with the present situation in the Arab Gulf and Kuwait.

Welcoming the three new ministers of health, communications and electricity and water, he reminded the cabinet that a ministerial portfolio is a responsibility rather than an honour and that all should dedicate themselves to the service of the country wherever they are assigned to.



Sheikh Saad

from these intricate problems, the Crown Prince preferred to describe the government's woes as "issues" rather than problems.

The Premier listed administrative reform, which has become the issue of the hour and concern of the citizens and the press, as one of the top priorities of the government.

Suggested

The housing issue is also on top of the priorities of the state, in addition to health services and rationalisation of expenditure.

He also laid emphasis on study of draft laws before endorsing them to executive quarters.

He added the "Citizen's Day" which he suggested when the last cabinet was formed in mid-1986 to foster direct relation between the ministers and the citizens to look into the latter's problems should be pursued.

Positive

He warned that some people may try to obstruct the positive and constructive steps the government is taking by shedding doubt on the serious efforts the officials are making.

The ministers expressed pride and appreciation in the confidence placed in them and pledged to do their utmost for the country under the leadership of HH the Amir and Sheikh Saad.

Perils

Sheikh Saad recalled that during the last few months, the government steered the country through many perils and accomplished a lot.

"But we have a great deal to do to meet the aspirations and ambitions of the citizens who, after the reshuffle last week, hope to see a new approach to the situation through which the Arab Gulf region and Kuwait are passing", he emphasised.

He said that unlike the

developed nations and some of the Third World countries which suffer from problems like unemployment, inflation, inadequate educational and health services, crimes, drug addiction etc. due to shortage of manpower or finances, Kuwait was free from all these.

As Kuwait does not suffer



An Israeli Army helicopter drops tear gas on the upper parts of Nablus as a Palestinian flag flies from a rooftop. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israeli troops fire at youths as unrest flares up

NABLUS, West Bank, Jan 31. (Agencies): Israeli troops shot and wounded at least six Palestinian youths in the West Bank today, the second day of renewed violence in Israeli-occupied territories, hospital officials said.

The latest shooting shattered two weeks of relative calm in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the daily newspaper Haaretz said security officials were convinced the disturbances would continue for "a long time to come."

Troops clamped curfews on the town of Nablus and several refugee camps in the territories.

Some churches in east Jerusalem and the West Bank held a day of mourning for the 39 Palestinians shot dead by Israelis since unrest in the occupied areas erupted on Dec 9.

an Army helicopter hovered overhead.

Soldiers declared the area closed to reporters and jeeps with loudspeakers toured the city centre announcing an indefinite curfew.

Wounded

Security forces yesterday shot and wounded at least 20 Arabs in Nablus and elsewhere in the Israeli-occupied territories in fresh anti-Israeli unrest that shattered two weeks of respite from the clashes in which Israelis shot dead 39 Palestinians since Dec 9.

Palestinian nationalists have called for fresh confrontation with Israeli authorities and the Israeli daily Haaretz reported that security officials were convinced the unrest would continue "for a long time to come."

Five anti-Israeli groups have formed a "secret directorate" to orchestrate the Palestinian protests in Israel's occupied territories, the Sunday Times of London said.

Citing "Palestinian sources in the West Bank and Gaza," the newspaper reported the group is based in the occupied territories, was formed in the first weeks after spontaneous protests against Israeli rule began Dec 9 and "set out to take control of the protests."

Links

The newspaper said its decisions are "announced in leaflets distributed in their thousands in the streets and pushed under doors" and there are apparent "links between the directorate and the Voice of Jerusalem, the Palestinian radio station opened in the first week of the troubles."

"We are in touch every minute," a directorate source in Gaza told the Times.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has repeated his call for an international force to protect the people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The insurrection in the (Israel) occupied territories shows the unshakable will of the Palestinian people to assert their claim to existence and self-determination," said Arafat, speaking yesterday at the opening of the fourth Inter-African Socialist Congress in Tunisia.

US to ask Iraq for \$75m for Stark attack

NEW YORK, Jan 31. (Reuters): The United States has decided to ask Iraq for more than \$75 million for the families of those killed in the Iraqi attack on the Gulf frigate Stark and for treatment of the wounded and repairs to the ship, the New York Times reported today.

The Times said that the State Department was expected to present Baghdad with the claim next month after it completes calculations on the figure and consults with families of the 37 sailors killed.

It quoted State Department and Pentagon officials as saying there would be separate claims for the survivors of those killed, for the wounded, and for repair of the extensive damage to the frigate in the May 17, 1987 attack.

Fired

Officials said the final bill was expected to total more than \$75 million.

Shortly after the Iraqi warplane fired two French-made Exocet missiles at the Stark in the Gulf, Baghdad promised to pay compensation for the loss of life, wounds and damage in the attack which it said was an accident.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq wrote to President Reagan later, saying "sorrow and regret are not enough."

But Reagan administration officials cited by the Times said Iraq may be reluctant to pay damages because of possible compensation claims from other government or shipping companies attacked by Iraq during its Gulf war with Iran.

"The Iraqis have indicated they would receive our claim and accept liability. But I can't promise they will write a cheque," one official was quoted as saying.

Officials said they expected long negotiations and Iraq's ambassador to Washington declined comment.

Sophisticated equipment for PLO

LONDON, Jan 31. (UPI): A defence equipment company sold, with British government approval, sophisticated radio equipment to the PLO in 1981 in a deal directly involving Yasser Arafat, the Mail on Sunday newspaper reported.

Citing documents in its possession, the newspaper said the deal was "organised directly through the personal office" of the PLO chairman and involved "sophisticated radio equipment" supplied by Racal-Falcom Ltd, a major subsidiary of Racal, one of Britain's largest defence supply companies.

The Mail did not say how many radios were involved in the 1981 deal, how much they were worth or for what they were used. But it added the British government approved the deal by approving an export licence.

King Hussein

ROME, Jan 31. (AP): King Hussein of Jordan arrived here today on a three-day official visit, the first leg of a European tour expected to focus on the Middle East peace process and the Palestinian issue.

Iraq attacks two vessels Crew abandons ship after raid

MANAMA, Jan 31. (Agencies): A Panamanian-flag freighter was set ablaze, apparently by an Iraqi air strike, in the northern Gulf today, and the whereabouts of its crew was unknown.

A US missile destroyer, the Chandler, first spotted the drifting vessel on radar late last night and sent up a helicopter at first light to observe it at close hand, a US military source said.

"The helicopter reported that the ship was smoking and abandoned. No crew was located or observed," said the source, asking not to be named. The ship was identified as the Mare, a 15,241-ton Greek-owned cargo vessel.

Location

Iraq claimed two attacks by its fighter-bombers off Iran over a nine-hour period. Shipping executives said one of them appeared to have been the Mare, although its location when sighted by another vessel later today was about 50 miles (80 km) west of Saudi Arabia and almost twice that far from Iran.

Damage to the ship appeared characteristic of the air-launched Exocet missiles that Iraqi planes use in raids against Iranian shipping, one Gulf-based shipping executive said.

Some shipping officials speculated that the attack might have been an error, but others suggested the Iraqis might have known the Mare was bound for the Iranian port of Bushehr and thus considered it a legitimate target.

Iraq's official news agency, did not mention the freighter, but said that the aircraft had "dealt very effectively and accurately blows to one very large naval target" off the Iran coast at midnight (2100 GMT) and again at 9 am. (0600 GMT).

Identity

It quoted an unnamed military spokesman as saying: "Our brave Hawks all returned safely to base after completing their missions."

The shipping executives, who asked not to be named, said they were able to confirm the second attack on a supertanker, but did not know its identity.

"Large naval target" is Iraq's

term for the tankers Iran uses to shuttle oil from the big Kharg Island loading terminal in the northern Gulf.

The Mare, operated by the Good Faith Shipping Co., of Piraeus, was burning furiously when sighted at mid-morning today by the skipper of a Bahamian-flag tanker, the Hoeghforum.

The officer, Capt. Erling Hansen, reported by radio that the crew's quarters were gutted, the lifeboats had been lowered and there was no sign of the crew.

Smoking

As that was several hours after the US helicopter made its scouting flight and reported the ship "smoking," it appeared the fire had flared anew.

By nightfall, however, the flames reportedly had trapped off as the ship drifted southward to about 60 miles (95 km) north of Bahrain, shipping sources said, but the fate of the crew remained a mystery.

Some officials said the Mare's crew might have been rescued by Saudi Coast Guard boats, a foreign warship or even Iranians operating from Farsi Island, a Revolutionary Guards base in the area, but there were no reports to substantiate any of these theories. The number of crewmen was not known.

The US Navy normally maintains one or two warships in that area, to monitor Iraqi and Iranian air activity.

Syria and Iran have agreed to continue promoting dialogue between Tehran and Gulf Arab states despite Iraqi criticism, the official Syrian news agency Sana said today.

Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara returned today from a day-long visit to Tehran, his fourth since Damascus launched its mediation effort in December.

The agency said Shara delivered a message to Iranian President Ali Khamenei from President Hafiz Al Assad and had talks with his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, on the Gulf.

It said they agreed on the importance of reducing regional tensions and continuing Syrian efforts to establish friendly relations between the Gulf states and Iran.

Venereal disease cases rising

SEXUALLY transmitted diseases (STD) have been increasing in Kuwait every year during the past five years, according to a study prepared by the social health department of the Health Ministry. It said that the most widespread venereal diseases in Kuwait were gonorrhoea, infections of the urinary tract and syphilis.

It said that more Kuwaitis suffered from gonorrhoea and urinary tract infections than people of other nationalities.

The study said that the majority of venereal disease cases were among educated bachelors with high monthly incomes.

It warned that most STD cases originated outside Kuwait.

It said that the percentage of students among the STD patients was quite high, and called for a review of the training and education of adolescents.

DAY BY DAY

The computer system at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has been out of order for several days. The Interior Ministry must get approval from the Social Affairs Ministry's computer system to renew employee residence permits.

This computer was repaired only two days ago and the Interior Ministry's amnesty period ended yesterday. This means that many establishments and employees will be required to pay huge fines in accordance with the new amendments to the Residence Law. Should we demand the amount of the fine from the Ministry of Social Affairs because its computer failure was the reason for the delay?

This whole problem requires that the Ministry of Interior extend the amnesty period for residence violations. Moreover, the Interior Ministry should allow establishments and individuals to renew their residence permits more than one month prior to the expiry date. At present, the Interior Ministry refused to renew residences if more than one month remains and then fines the company and the employees if they come to renew them within less than a month of expiration.

It is also recommended that the Interior Ministry allow companies with an additional month after the date of expiry to renew their residences instead of one week or ten days since this period is not long enough to complete the thousands of applications. Companies need this additional month to renew the residences of their employees.

Zahed Matar

Jansher wins

ANTWERP, Belgium Jan 31 (AP): Pakistan's Jansher Khan today won the \$40,000 Belgian Squash trophy, beating Ross Norman of New Zealand 8-10, 9-4, 9-0, 9-0.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

وہ عجیب و غریب کیم کے کہیں کاش

خاندانہ اشرفیہ ایران کے کہیں

وہ افغان مجاہدین کی کہیں کہیں

سے کہیں کہیں کہیں کہیں

وہ مغربی طاقتوں کی کہیں کہیں

مطالعہ میں کہیں کہیں کہیں

وہ عجیب و غریب کہیں کہیں کہیں

پر عموماً کہیں کہیں کہیں

وہ عجیب و غریب کہیں کہیں کہیں

پر عموماً کہیں کہیں کہیں

WEATHER

PARTLY cloudy weather with light to moderate southwesterly wind.

State of sea, moderate

High water, 12 noon

Low water, 5.30 am, 6.00 pm

Sunrise, 6.38 am

Sunset, 5.26 pm

Maximum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmad: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 17°C 63°F

Maximum temperature expected:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 19°C 66°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 77 per cent

Ahmad: 79 per cent

Falaka: 75 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 87 per cent

Ahmad: 89 per cent

Falaka: 85 per cent

Minimum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 11°C 52°F

Ahmad: 11°C 52°F

Falaka: 11°C 52°F

INTERNATIONAL

Sikh militants go on trial in New Jersey

NEWARK, New Jersey, Jan 31, (AP): A judge's mail is being X-rayed and streets near the federal courthouse will be cordoned off Monday when a hearing is held to determine whether two alleged Sikh terrorists should be returned to India.

Ranjit Singh Gill and Sukhinder Singh are accused by the Indian government in the assassinations of a retired Indian Army commander and a member of Parliament.

An attorney for Singh says both men are activists seeking an independent nation in India's Punjab state, where Sikhs form a majority, and fled to the United States to avoid political prosecution. FBI agents arrested them last May.

The elaborate security precautions surrounding the extradition hearing are necessary, officials said, in light of the violent attacks attributed to Sikh separatists in India and other countries.

Federal officials said all mail and packages for Ronald Hedges, federal magistrate in the case, are passed through an X-ray machine.

Parking will be banned from two streets bordering the court house, they said. In addition, two of the four stairwells in the court house will be closed.

Ronald Kuby, another attorney for Singh, protested the heavy security measures, saying they could prejudice the case against his client.

Sihanouk reveals split

PEKING, Jan 31, (Reuters): Prince Norodom Sihanouk today released details of an alleged military confrontation between Kampuchean guerrilla factions, one day after his resignation as head of the coalition fighting Vietnam's occupation of the country.

Troops loyal to Son Sann, the Prince's erstwhile ally in the three-party guerrilla coalition, have encircled Sihanoukist troops in the Trat region of Kampuchea, according to copies of a telegram issued to journalists in Beijing.

The telegram, sent to Sihanouk by his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh in Bangkok, said Son Sann's forces were demanding the return of 300 soldiers who had defected to the Prince's Army.

Sihanouk's son said in the telegram, dated Saturday, he had warned rival guerrilla leaders of "very grave" consequences if shots were fired in the confrontation.

Accompanying the photocopied telegram was a statement in which Sihanouk denied press descriptions of his forces as the smallest of the three coalition armies.

Afghan mujahedeen plan to set up government

ISLAMABAD, Jan 31, (Reuters): Afghan mujahedeen leaders today announced plans to set up a government to take power after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

A statement issued in Pakistan said it would be led by the mujahedeen but would include refugees and Muslims from inside Afghanistan, but the question of how it was to be chosen was still to be decided.

The rebels called on Muslims inside the war-torn country to approach local guerrilla commanders quickly. They would be accepted as "Muslim brothers" and later given cards by the alliance, confirming their Islamic identity.

But the statement reiterated the rebels' refusal to contemplate sharing power with "communist and atheists" and warned that any outside attempt to impose a government would not end the conflict.

It was issued hours after the

departure from Pakistan of UN mediator Diego Cordovez, who has been seeking to negotiate an Afghan peace settlement since 1982. He left for Kabul this morning on the fourth stage of a diplomatic shuttle which, since Jan 20 has taken him to Islamabad twice and Kabul once before.

The statement was issued by Mohammad Yaqub Sharafat, newly-appointed public relations officer of the alliance. Speaking by telephone from Peshawar, north-west Pakistan, he said the decisions were taken at a meeting of the seven leaders there today.

The government's tasks would be to pave the way for the Soviet pullout and a return of the estimated five million refugees, bring peace and supervise reconstruction, the statement said.

To repair the damage caused by nine years of guerrilla warfare, help from foreign countries and organisations would be needed. The alliance, the Islamic

Unity of Afghan Mujahedeen, called on foreign aid organisations to prepare plans for reconstruction.

Right

The statement said both Islam and the United Nations guaranteed peoples the right to form their own governments.

"If anyone tries to impose a government on Afghanistan, that will be not a solution but it will bring more danger," it said. "There is no question of a coalition government with communists and other atheists."

The Soviet-backed administration of President Najibullah, which has adopted Islam as the constitutional national religion, has frequently offered to share power with the rebels and other exiled opponents.

Pakistan, which plays host to the rebels, has also promoted the idea of a future compromise government made up of the mujahedeen, Najibullah's People's Democratic Party (PDP),

and a third element of Afghan refugees from the region, Europe and North America.

The alliance has stuck firmly to its refusal to share power with "communists," but some leaders have said non-party members of the Kabul government might be considered acceptable.

Western Afghan-watchers in Islamabad, in an initial reaction, said the announcement seemed to be principally a gambit in the diplomatic manoeuvring during Cordovez' current shuttle.

The alliance leaders, who refused to meet him, have been coming under pressure from Pakistan to modify their opposition to power-sharing, according to Pakistani officials and rebel sources.

Following Soviet hints that they might pull out of Afghanistan soon, with or without a peace settlement, Pakistan has been keen to push the issue of an interim government acceptable to all back into the centre of negotiations.

Aquino's amnesty proving fruitful

47,000 rebels surrender

MANILA, Jan 31, (Reuters): Philippines President Corason Aquino today said an amnesty has brought the surrender of 47,000 communist rebels and supporters.

In a radio talk show, Aquino also pledged to stand by her soldiers whom human rights groups have accused of abuses.

Aquino said her amnesty programmes, aimed at defusing the 19-year-old communist insurgency, had brought jobs to former rebels and their sympathisers.

She did not say how many of the 47,000 were rebel regulars but officials earlier said they numbered about 4,000.

The so-called "cash-for-guns" programme also involved lend-

ing money to former rebels to set them up in business. Aquino launched the policy last year after peace talks with the guerrillas collapsed.

Aquino pledged her government's full backing to troops, in an apparent response to accusations of military violations of human rights.

"The military will go out and fight with every reassurance that I will stand by them until the end," she said.

An Asian human rights group on Saturday accused the armed forces of killing, torturing and intimidating civilians who refused to join anti-communist vigilantes.

A rebel spokesman, in a broadcast on a clandestine radio

on Saturday, said the New People's Army had deployed 30,000 guerrillas all over the country—the largest figure given by the rebels so far on the strength of the NPA.

Military estimates of NPA strength ranged from 24,000 to 34,000 men.

NPA spokesman Fidel Alina said the rebel forces were spread out in 83 combat battalions and that their numbers were growing.

"We are fighting for the cause of the masses and we will expand and we will win," Alina said.

The military has deployed several thousand soldiers in four hot-spot provinces where special elections for governors and mayors are to be held on Monday.

Thai sailor sentenced to death for heroin

JAKARTA, Jan 31, (Reuters): A Thai sailor was sentenced to death by a court on the Indonesian island of Borneo for smuggling 17.76 kilograms of heroin into Indonesia last August, the official news agency Antara reported today.

Defence counsel for Kamjai Khong Thijorm, a crew member on a Thai lumber freighter, said he would appeal against the decision handed down on Saturday by the district court in the east Kalimantan (Borneo) provincial capital of Samarinda.

Customs officials found 22 packages of heroin with an estimated street value of more than \$250,000, in his quarters during an inspection of the ship on August 20, the court was told during the trial.

It was the largest case of heroin smuggling in Indonesia to date, Antara said.

Indonesia introduced the death penalty as the maximum sentence for narcotics crimes in 1976. Four other people have been sentenced to death for narcotics since then — an Indonesian who was shot dead after a jail escape, two Taiwanese whose sentences were commuted to life, and a Malaysian who is appealing his 1985 conviction.



James Denby (left) smiles after his release by the Nicaraguan security police in Managua. (Reuters wirephoto)

Denby denies ferrying arms to Contras

LOS ANGELES, Jan 31, (AP): An American released from jail two months after his plane was forced down by the Nicaraguan Army arrived in the United States today and again denied he was ferrying arms to the Contras.

"I was down about 200 feet (60 meters). I flew over an Army encampment. They shot me," James Denby said after landing in a private jet at Los Angeles international airport.

Asked why he was shot down, he said: "Because I was there."

Denby was released yesterday to US Senate candidate Bill Press of California and a group of lawyers. Dozens of reporters stood by on the tarmac awaiting his arrival.

"I feel great right now," said Denby, his arm around Press. "I want to thank the nicest guy in the world, Bill Press. He brought me home in time for the super bowl."

When asked if he was ferrying arms to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras, he responded "no, sir, no way."

Denby, who later boarded a TWA flight for St Louis, said he

wasn't mistreated by the Nicaraguans.

"I had good food," he said. "I've been in jail for 60 days, it's not the best red carpet I've ever seen, but I would say their jails are better than many country jails, although, of course, I have never been in them."

Denby, 58, a farmer from Carlinville, Illinois, who has helped the Contras in the past, walked out of a state security building in Managua, Nicaragua, wearing the same flowered shirt he wore when he was arrested on Dec 6. Accompanying him was Press, a Democrat.

Denby's release came after Judge Rosa Argentina Morales of 2nd district criminal court in Nicaragua issued an order Friday night dropping the charges, a secretary in the court told the Associated Press. A source at the Interior Ministry confirmed that the charges had been dropped.

They went immediately to the jet and took off for Los Angeles. No one from Nicaragua's Sandinista government was present for the release.

Needles to curb AIDS

NEW YORK, Jan 31, (Reuters): New York City will distribute needles, to drug addicts to help curb the spread of the deadly AIDS virus, according to the New York Times.

Citing state officials, the paper said New York state health commissioner Dr David Axelrod had reversed his long-time opposition to the plan and approved giving needles to several hundred intravenous drug users.

The addicts will be handed the needles within months, the paper said. If the programme succeeds, thousands more drug users will be added to the programme.

An estimated 20-25 per cent of the 50,000 AIDS sufferers in the United States live in New York City.

The plan, believed to be the first in the country, does not require legislative approval because it is considered scientific research, the paper reported.

Khaddafi asks Red Indians to form states

LONDON, Jan 31, (Reuters): Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi wants American Indians and blacks to unite and work towards forming three states based on race in North America, according to an address on television.

Khaddafi, in a speech monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said Northern America should be divided into a state each for Indians, blacks and one for the remaining whites. "Who should have returned to Europe and left the American continent to its original inhabitants."

His speech in Tripoli on Saturday, to a meeting described as the first international conference of Red Indians, was broadcast by Libyan television.

Khaddafi said that American Indians must recover their ancestral lands in line with the UN principle of self determination.

"The struggle should start from now on to set up state for the Red Indians in Northern America ... in California, Chicago, Texas and Mexico," he said, according to the BBC.

Unity

Khaddafi said that Indians should unite with black Americans who also had a right to establish a state in North America.

The two groups should form an alliance with liberation movements in South America with whom they share a common fate, Khaddafi added.

He urged the American Indian nation to establish a "natural alliance with its natural allies, with the people struggling for freedom, with the peoples threatened by American imperialism, with the peoples of South America who are controlled by the fascism imposed by the American Yankee imperialism."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Flights disrupted

CAIRO, Jan 31, (Reuters): International flights from Cairo have been delayed and international services disrupted for three days because of a work-to-rule by pilots of the national carrier Egyptair, airport officials said today.

The action by the airline's 200 pilots, which began on Friday over bonuses, grounded 11 planes at Cairo, they said.

An airline spokesman said the company had hired pilots temporarily from two private aviation firms operating in Egypt.

Finns go to polls

HELSINKI, Jan 31, (AP): Finns braved crisp winter weather today to go to the polls in a two-day presidential election in which four million eligible voters had the chance to elect a president directly for the first time.

Temperatures ranged from -12°C (10°F) in southern Finland to -19°C (-2°F) in the far north, the Weather Bureau said.

Polls conducted in the last week of campaigning had managed to keep his popularity above the 50 per cent level required for a direct win.

PLO talks end

AMMAN, Jan 31, (AP): Jordanian and PLO officials said yesterday they would increase their cooperation, but remained deadlocked over how to advance Arab-Israeli peace efforts despite three days of meetings.

The report that they would hold further meetings indicated improvement in still-cool relations between the two sides, but stopped short of reviving their formal coordination on Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

Winds uproot trees

VALENCIA, Spain, Jan 31, (Reuters): Strong winds sweeping the Valencia region in southern Spain uprooted trees and damaged citrus crops, officials said today.

Tiger parts

HONG KONG, Jan 31, (Reuters): Customs officers detained a man crossing from China into Hong Kong today after they found two tiger paws and a tiger's penis hidden in his trunk.

Tigers are listed as an endangered species by the World Wildlife Fund and the British colony has strict laws about importing them, either whole or in pieces.

Tiger paws and penises can be used in traditional Chinese medicine. Customs officers said the man, who was not named, had been handed over to investigators from Hong Kong's Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

Royal tour

TERRIGAL, Australia, Jan 31, (AP): The Princess of Wales exchanged jokes with bronzed Australian livesavers today when she and Prince Charles stopped by a surf lifesaving carnival at Terrigal, north of Sydney.

40,000 protest Chittagong killings

DHAKA, Jan 31, (UPI): About 40,000 opposition supporters today marched through the southern city of Chittagong to protest the deaths by police shooting of at least 13 activists during a campaign to oust President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, residents said.

No incidents were reported during the procession that ended with a speech by Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Khaleda Zia was in Chittagong to express sympathy to relatives of those killed by police gunfire during street battles with opposition supporters last Sunday in the port city 133 miles (220 km) southeast of Dhaka.

Meanwhile, the government announced the killings would be investigated by a high court judge in an official inquiry to be completed within three weeks.

Jayewardene to hold elections

COLOMBO, Jan 31, (Reuters): President Junius Jayewardene said today he would hold elections to provincial councils throughout Sri Lanka in March or April as part of a campaign to end unrest by Tamils in the north and Sinhalese in the south.

Jayewardene made the announcement at a public rally at Maharagama on the outskirts of Colombo hours after six Tamil rebels and two Sri Lankan soldiers were killed in a clash in the northwest district of Mannar.

Establishing semi-autonomous elected councils in the Indian Ocean island state's nine provinces is a key element in the controversial peace agreement signed last July by Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Discover gold

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

مكتبة مصر

Ideal governorate week to focus on environment

PROMINENT Kuwaiti environmentalist yesterday called for cooperation between citizens and government establishments for the success of the "ideal governorate" week which will be inaugurated in Ahmadi today.

Secretary of the Environment Protection Council Ibrahim Mohammed Hadi told Kuna that the aim of this week, sponsored by the council, is to pay attention to the environment and protect it against pollution and to preserve public utilities.

Hadi also said that the campaign also aims at beautifying the city and taking care of the

recreational centres and public gardens.

Hadi further said that the ideal governorate campaign will concentrate on urging citizens to cooperate with the government bodies to keep public places clean and to use the correct methods for getting rid of wastes.

Seminars will be held within the framework of the campaign on driving, maintenance of cars, noise, pollution and the dangers cars can pose in general, Hadi said.

Pollution

He pointed out the fact that the rising standards of living in Kuwait has increased the num-

ber of cars, thus increasing the rate of pollution caused by these vehicles.

The Ministries of Education, Social Affairs and Labour, Interior and Public Health will take part in the campaign, in addition to Kuwait Municipality, and the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries as well as the touristic enterprises, banks and private sector companies and cooperative societies.

The two-month campaign for the ideal governorate will be held in the governorates of Ahmadi, Jahra, Hawalli and the capital as of today.



Dr. Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak (right) smiles during the visit of Minister Rashed Al Rashed at his office on Saturday.



Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed makes a point as he chats with the new Health Minister Dr. Abdul Razzak.

Limited health plans to be implemented

KUWAIT'S Public Health Minister Dr. Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak said the ministry will implement limited public health plans in the future, adding that he would do his best to offer citizens the best health services possible.

Commenting on a question about changes among senior officials in the ministry, he said that more time was needed to study what changes should be made.

Dr. Abdul Razzak, following his new appointment, received the Planning Minister Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed and the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, who came to congratulate him on his appointment as Health Minister.

Symposium on administrative development

ADMINISTRATIVE development was the topic of a symposium held on Thursday with Mohammad Ahmad Amer, Kuwait's Civil Service Commission Adviser, as the featured speaker.

In his presentation, Ahmad Amer said that the administrative development philosophy relied on a clearly defined service strategy, which considered all contributing variables and the careful selection of qualified personnel and their continuous development.

The implementation of the recommendations made by various committees was based on stated objectives, he said, and relied on the cooperation of those assigned to the development project.

Ahmad Amer said that the administrative development plan would be carried out according to established priorities, avoiding duplication of work.

The adviser encouraged the use of other experiences in administrative development which would help eliminate the repetition of mistakes that could be avoided.

New telephone lines in Sulaibiya

INSTALLATION of new telephone lines begins today in Kuwait's Sulaibiya suburb, Block 1, according to a source at the Ministry of Communications. About 5,000 lines will be installed in Sulaibiya by the end of March.

The ministry is also trying to provide phone links for residents of the Ouyun housing area. This is expected to be done in the next few months.

Recently two central exchanges were built in Jahra, old and new suburbs. The opening of these exchanges has enabled the ministry to provide service to several applicants who had been on the waiting list for the last two years.

University under new ministry

A KUWAITI daily reported yesterday that Kuwait University, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) will be under the newly established Ministry of Higher Education.

Videotex to be available by middle of this year

KUWAIT Communications Ministry officials expect the new visual information system, known as Videotex, will be available to subscribers in Kuwait by the middle of this year.

Videotex, which will have a KD100 subscription fee, includes a central computer system for storage and classification of information and a sub-computer for the retrieval of stored information. The installation fee for the system, which the user accesses by computer commands

New cities to absorb population increase

TWO new cities are to be built during the 1989/1990 five year plan. They will absorb the expected increase in Kuwait's population by the year 2005 AD. The cities will be in Khairan and Al Sabbiyah.

The Khairan city would absorb a total of 250,000 and Al Sabbiyah, another 115,000 people by the year 2005 to meet the expected rise in population to 2,505,000.

The present suburbs can absorb about 2.1 million people, but the 1980 census report said that population would rise to 2.5 million, creating the need to expand the number of cities.

The census report predicted some 25 per cent rise in population between 1980 and 1985, thus, raising the demand for homes in the present decade.

The municipality, which recently completed two studies, has suggested spacing the construction of the two cities. Work on Al Sabbiyah should start first, followed 10 years later by Al Khairan.

The consultant engineers working on the city designs have suggested that a margin for expansion should be kept to accommodate about 100,000 more people in both cities.

Both cities will have proper infrastructure including a comprehensive road network to serve 15 sectors in each city. Each city will also have an industrial sector.

Bishara arrives in Muscat

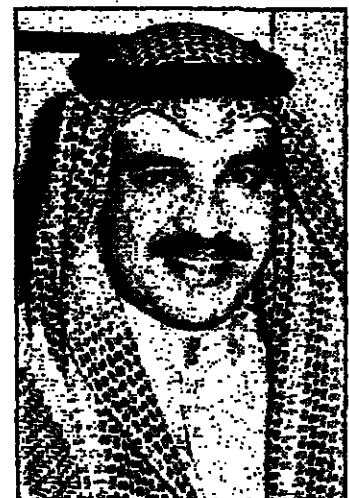
MUSCAT, Jan 31. (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Abdullah Bishara arrived here today on an official three-day visit. Radio Muscat reported.

In an arrival statement, Bishara said he came here to consult and exchange views with Omani officials on the forthcoming meetings of GCC finance and economy ministers.

The talks would also focus on broadening economic and commercial cooperation among GCC states, the secretary-general added.

Replying to a question, Bishara pointed out that GCC states are keeping contacts with both Iran and Iraq with the aim of defusing tension between the two Muslim states, halting their eight-year old war and ending "any extraneous presence in the region."

Bishara was met at the airport by Foreign Ministry officials, the radio said.



Sheikh Sabah Nasser Saoud

French foreign minister meets Arab envoys

PARIS, Jan 31. (Kuna): Arab ambassadors posted in France attended today an informal luncheon hosted by the French Foreign Minister, Jean-Bernard Raimond, at La Cite, Paris.

The luncheon is part of the regular meetings the foreign minister has with the Arab ambassadors to assess the current international situation, especially in the Middle East, the ministry's spokesman said.

The meeting is taking place on the eve of the visit to France of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan, who are expected in Paris next Monday and Wednesday respectively.

Both leaders are most likely to raise, during their talks with French officials, the crucial Palestinian issue and the peace initiative to bring an end to the sufferings of the Palestinian people.



A delegation of the most outstanding members of Kuwaiti youth centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour arrived at Kuwait airport after a ten-day visit to Egypt and was received by officials of the ministry's youth department. The 16-member delegation was headed by the supervisor of the Sabahiya Youth Centre. The delegation is pictured at the airport after their return to Kuwait.

MR & MRS STANLEY D'SOUZA AND FAMILY

express their gratitude to the relatives and friends who rendered help, attended the funeral, offered prayers, sent condolences and floral tributes and all those who called on them personally and shared in their grief over the loss of their beloved daughter, Sandra Theresza D'Souza.

They also express their sincere thanks to the doctors and nurses at Kuwait Cancer Control Center for their valiant fight to save the life of the departed.

The kindness of so many friends and the many proofs of deep affection in which Sandra was held will always remain a proud and cherished memory.

Kuwait to host first Gulf stage festival

THE first Gulf stage festival that will be held in Kuwait this March aims to raise the level of theatrical writing and production in the region, according to the first issue of a publication marking the festival yesterday.

The publication described the festival as a major artistic event organised alternately in the Arab Gulf states every other winter.

It pointed out that the festival will feature theatrical shows, seminars and other activities that would allow the exchange of views and expertise.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received Sheikh Jaber Al Ali. The Amir also received Kuwait's Ambassador to Turkey Faisal Abdul Wahab Al Refai to ask permission from the Amir to assume his new position.

Crown Prince cables

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saeed Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received a cable from the chairman of the Palestinian Union of Athletes.

In the cable, on behalf of all the athletes participating in the marathon, the union expressed thanks to HH the Amir, the government, and the people of Kuwait on hosting the race which affirms the Arabism of Jerusalem.

They reiterated their thanks to the Crown Prince on continuous support of the Palestinian cause in different fields.

On the other hand, the Crown Prince sent yesterday a reply cable including his thanks for the good wishes of the Palestinian union, asking God's help for the Palestinians to achieve victory in their struggle to liberate the occupied territories.

Committee on AIDS formed

DOHA, Jan 31. (Kuna): An official source at Hamad's Medical Corporation said that a committee on AIDS has been formed to collect data and set up special policies on awareness campaigns and treatment programmes.

The source said, in a statement to the Qatari News Agency (QNA) today that the AIDS committee will also be responsible for reviewing cases and apply the up-to-date methods in treating the killer disease.

He noted that health under-secretary and director general of Hamad's General Hospital Hajar Ahmed Hajar has assigned Dr. James Milder, head of the internal medicine department at the hospital, as chairman of the committee.

GCC youth forum supports uprising

ABU DHABI, Jan 31. (Kuna): A GCC youth forum today affirmed solidarity with and support for the Palestinian uprising which erupted last Dec 8 inside the occupied territories, calling for the liberation of all Palestinian land.

This came at the conclusion of the cultural forum for GCC youth which was held in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah and was sponsored by the Arab World Bureau of International Seminar for youths.

The meeting called for establishing spheres of cooperation among Gulf states, urging the mass media to direct their attention to serving youths and solving their problems.

Copyrights protection law

A SPECIALISED committee at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters resumed its meetings here yesterday to endorse a national legislation on protecting copyrights.

According to a report on the council activities during last month, the council sponsored the local exhibition for children drawings. It also is preparing to take part in the international fair

for children art which will be held in Turkey next September and for another one to be held in Czechoslovakia.

The council issued a new edition of the series of the world of knowledge entitled "Medicine since the dawn of time until today" by Dr. Riadh Al Alami. It is also in the process of re-printing three books of the series.

A city of knowledge and learning is being built. Madinat-al-Hikmat

— A universal project of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan.



Result of fluctuation in foreign currencies

Medicine prices very high in Kuwait

THE high price of medicines in Kuwait is mainly due to the fluctuations in the major foreign currencies, according to the secretary of the Medicine Importers Union, Nasser Al Hajri.

He told a local newspaper that the new regulations to be applied soon by the Health Ministry allowed importers to take a profit of 35 per cent, out of which four per cent would go for customs and four per cent for insurance, transport and clearing, leaving a net profit of 27 per cent only. He added that pharmacy owners would take a net profit of 35 per cent.

The former rules gave importers a net profit of 35 per cent and a net profit of 30 per cent to pharmacies.

Al Hajri said the West German and Switzerland were the biggest exporters to Kuwait, followed by England, France and Italy.

Stocks
American companies sold their products to Kuwaiti importers through their branches in Europe because of the distance between Kuwait and the US.

Replying to a question about the great increase in prices in Kuwait without the taking into consideration of the quantities in stock that had been imported at

low prices, Al Hajri said that large quantities of medicines were imported but there were no large stocks and the importers had to abide by the validity dates of the medicines.

The newspaper interviewed a pharmacist, Makram Gerges, who said that Kuwait imported most anti-biotics from the United States, followed by Belgium and Switzerland.

Unchanged
He said the price of most American medicines remained unchanged despite the drastic drop in the dollar's exchange rate.

He added that the price of medicine imported from West Germany, Switzerland, England and other European countries had increased significantly due to exchange rate fluctuations.

Asked the main exporter of cough mixtures to Kuwait, he said it was West Germany. Another pharmacist, Nawal, said that most medicines available in the market were imported from West Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Britain.

Hikes
France was the main exporter of cosmetics to Kuwait, she said. She pointed out that the price of medicines was higher in Kuwait than in neighbouring

countries. She said that pharmacists faced many problems with customers over increase in prices.

Pharmacist Reem Anshasi said the high price of medicines was due to hikes by exporters. Some American companies, for instance, had increased the price of their products although the dollar exchange rate had dropped sharply, while some British companies which priced in dollars had reduced their prices. She said that all quotations submitted by exporters were valid for either six months or a year.

Control
But pharmacist Hani Jabre attributed the steep rise in prices to the absence of control and to the relatively small size of the Kuwait market. He added that exporter charged more for small quantities.

Pharmacist Jamal Al Khateeb said the Kuwait market would be subject to prices imposed by exporters as long as it depended on imports. Countries that manufactured medicines could easily control the market, he added.

Speaking about the difference in prices between Kuwait and neighbouring countries, he said that this may be because Kuwait was the smallest market and

there was no government control.

He called for strict control and coordination among GCC countries regarding import of medicines.

A resident, Mohammed Hussain Bu Eraki, said he used to purchase most of his medicines from private pharmacies, but noticed that prices were increasing steadily.

Another man, Atef Aziz said that people were compelled to buy certain medicine from private pharmacies because they were not available at clinics, and he noted that the prices were very high.

Reduce
A pharmacist, Shafiq Al Shawar, said she had been informed that some exporters would reduce their prices but this had not happened yet. She said that generally German and Swiss exporters increased prices.

Pharmacist Majid Al Sayed said that exporters who were paid in dollars had not increased or reduced their prices.

He believed that prices of medicines in Kuwait would be the same as that of the manufacturing country plus a profit margin after the Health Ministry issued its rules regarding quotations.



The chairman of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and of the Red Crescent Society, Abdul Aziz Al Sagor, presents a certificate to a graduate of a first aid training course held at Kuwait University.

First aid trainees graduate

CHAIRMAN of the Kuwait Red Crescent Association, Abdelaziz Al Sagor yesterday attended the graduation ceremony of the 10th first aid course wishing success for the graduates in their career.

Addressing the ceremony, Al Sagor praised the graduates for their cooperation in the two-week annual course which is organized in cooperation with Medical League of Kuwait University.

Al Sagor hoped that graduates, who are mostly Kuwait University students, would invest their spare time for the advancement of the Kuwaiti society.

Mishari to attend Gulf aviation meeting

BOARD chairman and managing director of Kuwait Airways Corporation, Ahmad Al Mishari and an accompanying delegation yesterday left here for Bahrain to take part in a meeting of the three Gulf air carriers.

It is a follow up meeting for a previous one held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia last January 12.

Al Mishari told Kuma that officials of Saudia and Gulf Air in addition to himself will evaluate recommendations endorsed by the Gulf aviation ministerial committee which met early this month.

The recommendations concern the increase of flights between the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council as well as reaching an agreement for the three carriers' joint fund, Al Mishari said.

He added that, during a meeting held in Kuwait last Jan 18 and 19, Saudia and KAC reached an agreement to establish a joint fund, hoping that two other agreements would be signed between the two carriers and Gulf Air to establish an operation fund at Bahrain's meeting.

British medical technician murdered in Riyadh

RIYADH, Jan 31. (AP): A Saudi Arabian citizen has been remanded in police custody for interrogation in connection with the slaying of a British medical technician here. British diplomatic sources said today.

They said the murder occurred last Thursday and identified the victim as Simon Hughes, 36, of Norwich in eastern England.

Hughes worked at the Riyadh military hospital, the sources added without elaborating. Saudi police customarily issue no statements about murder cases in the process of being investigated. Details of such crimes often surface when authorities announce the execution of murderers.

It was the second violent death of a Riyadh military hospital medical staffer in about 12 months. A Pakistani doctor working for the hospital's satellite clinic in the military city of Al-Kharg also was killed recently. Circumstances surrounding that incident also remain unclear. But there were reports that the Pakistani was shot by an irate father angry over his children's medical treatment.

Jail term

RIYADH, Jan 31. (Kuna): Prisoners in Saudi Arabia could get their terms shortened by half if they commit to memory the Holy Quran, King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia decreed today.

The royal order was quoted by an Interior Ministry statement which indicated that the prisoner authorities will examine each prisoner who claims to have memorised the holy book, according to the Saudi news agency.



The assistant director of the Police Academy, Colonel Ali Yacoub, yesterday opened a training course on explosives and another course for the Hawalli governorate patrol force. Picture shows the patrol police attending their course.

Sheba Sound to perform



THE Sheba Sound, a quartet consisting of two oboes, a bassoon and harpsicord (or piano or synthesizer), will present a one-night performance at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel Ballroom "A" on Feb 10. The group's repertoire includes music from the 17th to the 20th century. The musicians (pictured above) have appeared on British, West German and Belgium television and have performed at various festivals.

Unified customs clearance

IMPLEMENTATION of the unified Gulf Cooperation Council Vehicle Customs Clearance Form begins today, according to a GCC press statement. The new form will be distributed at the customs centre to GCC citizens travelling within the six member countries by car and will ask for information about the vehicle, owner and dates of entry and exit.

The aim of the new form is to facilitate customs procedures, the statement said, and to reduce both the time and effort required by citizens and customs officers. The form is the outcome of an agreement endorsed by the GCC Customs Department officials at their meeting in Riyadh on Oct 3 of last year.

Iraq, Oman seek to boost trade

BAGHDAD, Jan 31. (Kuna): Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications, Mohammed Hamza left here today for Muscat to head his country's delegation to the 4th session of the Iraqi-Omani committee for economic and technical cooperation.

The Iraq News Agency said that the committee's deliberations, due to start on Monday, will cover trade exchange and means of boosting volume of various bilateral activities with emphasis on economic aspects.

Roudhan leaves for Bahrain

KUWAIT'S Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Nasser Abdullah Al Roudhan left for Bahrain on a three-day visit at the invitation of his Bahraini opposite number Sheikh Khaled Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The accompanying delegation includes director general of the Public Authority for Housing Dr Ibrahim Majed Al Shaheen and other ministry officials.

Al Roudhan told reporters upon departure that he carries greetings of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier to Bahrain's Amir Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

The Kuwaiti minister will hold talks related to enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of housing and will also confer with housing officials to get acquainted with projects being implemented by Bahrain. He said that his visit falls within recommendations which were endorsed by GCC ministers of housing last October.

Indian minister arrives

INDIA'S State Minister for External Affairs, Eduardo Faleiro yesterday highly commended his country's relations with Kuwait which he said date back to hundreds of years.

Speaking to newsmen after arrival on an official visit, he said he looks forward to his meetings with Kuwaiti leaders who he said "are respected not only in India but in all other parts of the world."

He said that in the course of his 2-day stay here, he will discuss bilateral relations which are "presently excellent" and will also discuss the situation in the region along with the other issues which concern mankind today, adding "every issue today concerns every part of the world."

Seminar on waterproofing

THE Bitumat Waterproofing Systems of Saudi Arabia, which has a bituminous materials factory in Dammam, recently held a seminar on the concepts and practices of waterproofing in the Gulf.

Speakers were Riad Nimri of Masenco-USA and Abdullah Rizvi of Bitumat. About 100 delegates from various ministries, test stations, consultants, contractors and traders, as well as from the biggest stockist of Bitumat products in Kuwait, Shuwaikh Trading Company, attended the day long seminar.

27 accidents

A MAN died and another was injured when their car overturned at the Maghreb Motorway near Nagra area yesterday.

There were 27 traffic accidents in Kuwait, fifteen took place in Ahmadi, six in Jahra, three in Hawalli and three in the capital.

No plan to raise price of bread

THE managing director of the Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company, Bader Al Moosa, said there was no intention of raising the price of bread as long as the government subsidised it.

He said that about 2,250,000 loaves were produced at the automated factory and the quantity could be increased whenever necessary.

Regarding the increase in the price of toast bread, he said that consumers have to pay more for better quality, adding that the price was low compared to that of imported bread.

Al Moosa said there were eight automated bread factories and 47 retail distribution centres to cover consumer needs.

Regarding supply of loaves to homes, he said there were still some difficulties and such a service would create some financial problems for the company.

He stressed that consumers were free to purchase any amount of bread, but the factories were sometimes forced to limit quantities to distribution centres owing to heavy demand.

He said the Flour Mills Company and the Bakeries Company were merged in 1987.

He said the company was concerned to produce the best quality of bread. It made Arabic bread (brown and white), toast, bread loaves, buns and French bread.

School canteens under fire

SCHOOL canteens have come under fire by parents of students. They say that the canteens only aim at making profits without caring about the quality or nutritional value of the food provided for students.

The parents also said that there was almost no control over the canteens which prepared meals in the evening for use the next day. They said the prices were high although the quality was not good.

Most of the canteens were given on contract to local companies after the Education Ministry suspended its catering service.

Parents told a local newspaper they were ready to pay the Education Ministry if it took over the canteens.

A number of cases of food poisoning were reported last year at several schools and many students were admitted to hospitals for treatment. Fortunately nobody died.

Spoilt

One of the parents, Sabti Ali, said he wanted to stop his children buying items from the school canteen, but they saw other children buying and insisted on doing so as well. He said that some canteens sold spoilt food because there was not enough supervision. Some food

was sold to students even though the validity date had expired.

He called on the Education Ministry to cooperate with the Municipality and Health Ministry in imposing strict supervision over the canteens.

Other parents stressed that some school administrations gave the canteen to unknown companies with the aim of making bigger profits and these companies provided bad food for the children. They particularly criticised the nutritional value of the food supplied and demanded that contracts should be made with well known catering companies.

Supervision
The assistant undersecretary for student affairs at the Education Ministry, Abdul Mohsen Al Saied, said that the canteens were under the direct supervision of the ministry.

He said that the ministry also decided the dishes to be served at the canteens, and laboratory tests were frequently made to ensure that the food was good and fit for consumption. He added that the Health Ministry and Kuwait Municipality also supervised the school canteens.

Al Saied said that the ministry had asked schools not to hire catering companies that were not approved by the ministry.

Used car market to be moved to Ardhiya

ABDUL Rahman Al Qaoud, the director of Kuwait's General Utilities Company, said the present used car market will be moved to its new location in the Ardhiya area after completing formalities with the Municipality and the State Properties Department.

He explained that the company charges one dinar per car to be sold at the market and offers lighting, restrooms and a clean area to sell used cars. He added that the company did not profit from these token charges on the two to three thousand cars that are brought to the market on Thursdays and Fridays and about 1,000 cars during the week.

The used car market will be open until 9 pm everyday after the lighting is installed, he said, adding that an insurance com-

pany and a traffic department office should be included at the market to enable buyers to complete registration at the time they purchase a car.

Nouri for Amman

EDUCATION Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri who is also acting Higher Education Minister, left yesterday for Amman on a five-day visit at the invitation of the Jordanian government.

In the course of his stay there, the minister will confer with the deputy premier, Education Minister, Zaywan Al Hindawi and the Higher Education Minister Nasser-Eddin Al Assad on promotion of education and cultural cooperation. He will also visit higher educational institutions in the country.

Nouri who is accompanied by a high level delegation including assistant undersecretary for information Abdul-Mohsen Al Saied and Kuwait University assistant rector Dr Ahmed Eisa Bishara, is expected to sign the educational and cultural cooperation programme for 1988/89/90 which the Jordan Council of Ministers endorsed on Saturday.

KPTC buys two ferries

BADER Al Najjar the Assistant Director General of Kuwait's Public Transportation Company, announced that the company has purchased two ferries which are equipped with the latest technological devices in the field of marine transportation.

He said that the boats contain luxury facilities such as closed circuit television, canteens and restrooms and have a 150 passenger capacity. Another modern ferry boat has been purchased to transport cars and heavy equipment and construction materials with a 60 ton capacity, he said.

The three boats will be available for service sometime this year, he added.

Foreign call charges

THE Ministry of Communication announced yesterday that telephone subscribers can object to charges for foreign calls within six months of the bills' date of issue.

The ministry said that a special committee will receive the objections and study them within that period only.

It also asked subscribers who have any objection about earlier calls to submit applications to the committee within the next six months.

Bahrain Amir returns

MANAMA, Jan 31. (Kuna): The Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa returned to Manama today following a brief visit to Saudi Arabia, the Gulf News Agency reported.



A large quantity of hashish, estimated at over 57 kilograms, has been seized by Hawalli detectives. They arrested four Kuwaitis and a Syrian for smuggling and selling hashish. The detectives had learnt that two Kuwaitis were trading in hashish and arrested them. They told about the other three men who were also arrested and the hashish seized from them. Picture shows the five men and the hashish.

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THANKS

Our heartfelt thanks to all doctors, nurses and others of Mubarak Al-Kubli Hospital who tried their best to save our dear son.



MALCOLM FRANCIS
CARYAUHO

who breathed his last on 27th Jan '88. We also thank our relatives and friends for their condolences, assistance, floral tributes and for their presence at the funeral service. We regret our inability to thank each one individually.

From grieving parents
MICHAEL AND MARGARET
&
BROTHERS MELROY AND MARK.

Wanted immediately

A smart salesgirl for a reputed garment shop in Abbasiya. Applicants with transferable visa may please contact immediately the Unique Centre, Abbasiya, from 5 to 8 pm.

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

Incredible protectors

WHAT'S in a name? A rose is a rose. Not so in the case of Hindi films. Kudrat Ka Kanoon turns out to be a demented Insaan Ka Kanoon. And now, Watan Ke Rakhwale (Protectors of the Nation), as it happens, is "Badle Ke Rakhwale" (Protectors of Avengers), and a misnomer par excellence. It's an open secret that the Bombay film makers have run out of ideas. But would they pass off a crazy theme in the name of patriotism? Yes. They have.

The story penned by M.D. Sunder and B. Krishna Rao starts off with a wedding — an unconventional one at that, where the bridegroom is sent packing by a fiery, gutsy, convincing Arun (Mithun Chakraborty). He arrives with witnesses and a marriage certificate even as bride Radha yells, "He's a fraud, I'm married to him," to no avail.

Arun's motive, we are told, is national security. As you mull over the imperfect fact, viewers are introduced to the prison run by Jailor Sahab (Sunil Dutt). Prisoners live in Utopia. A perfect place to get away from the stress of outside life — terrorists roaming the streets, killers lurking in closets, bedrooms and mental hospitals.

The prisoners gush and sigh at the sight of Jailor Sahab, offering him red roses and prostrating at his feet. The man is worshipped by the prisoners. Only one prisoner — Mahavir (Dharmendra) sulks in a corner, as Mrs Jailor, better known as Bhabhi (Moushumi Chatterji) to others, ties rakhi — the cord that binds the brother to "protect" his "behana" (sister).

So far, there is nothing about Watan Ke Rakhwale and the terrorists. They arrive in bits and pieces; take action in fits and starts and operate from a mental hospital — a loony bin for the sane — Dr Narendra (Prem Chopra), Rajpuri (Kader Khan), and Khoya Khoya (Shakti Kapoor), and an imbecile son, played by Dan Dhanoa.

While they plot to "blow up Hindustan," Arun, our intelligence officer, sings and dances with Radha, who has changed her mind about the marriage, in the park.

If Hindustani intelligence operated the way it does in this film, one would feel very insecure. The intelligence officer assigned to root out terrorists is more interested in



Dharmendra

getting back at his Bhabhi's tormentors; Radha's relatives and others.

One could have forgiven the lapses for the sake of dramatic licence. But the trouble is director T. Rama Rao, who takes the film too seriously, believes viewers to be imbeciles who'll swallow anything given to them.

The so-called terrorists — Dr. N. Rajpuri and Khoya are more concerned with "killing the man who killed my son"; Mahavir the coconut seller chops off heads as he would break a coconut... Arun indulges in some villain-bashing himself and Jailor Sahab takes the rap.

So, where does patriotism lie? If you would care to believe: patriots are prisoners — the killers, robbers, and society's rejects. Arun is captured by the deadly terrorists — and why not? After all, he has more brawn than brain. And to "save Hindustan" from disintegrating the prisoners break out, join forces and decimate the enemy. You stretch your imagination to the breaking point; suspend disbelief; turn upside down and join Dr. Narendra's mental asylum, but you fail to find a pinch of credibility in the incredible version of Rama Rao's patriotism, if that was the point he was driving at in the first place.

Sridevi's sex appeal; Mithun's chivalry; Dharmendra's bravery; Sunil Dutt's emotional appeal; Moushumi's innocence and Kader Khan's sinister plots — everything

becomes a big joke for the sane, who are an endangered species if they sit through Dushman, Watan or whatever Ke Rakhwale.

"The story is set in pre-independence India in one of the Indian states. The characters are fictitious (not a misprint on our part) and bear no resemblance to anybody living or dead," it says before Mardana Wali Baat begins.

Certainly, they bear no resemblance to anyone living or dead and the characters are definitely "fictitious." Who would be dumb enough to act like buffoons? Or who would want to blackmail thieves to "protect a village from daks (dacoits)"?

The dacoit king is Sunder Raj (Danny). His favourite line is: "Dane dane pe likha hai khane wale ke naam; goli goli pe likha hai marne wale ka naam." In other words, it means, you are a dead man if you don't pay up. So, villagers starve and pay their dues to Raj, who has this uncanny habit of snarling at the camera and contorting his face into ugly images.

The village saviours are Bade Bhaiya; Big Brother, (Dharmendra) a bank robber and Tinku (Sunjay Dutt), a con-man. Both are conned into becoming supermen without the handsome costume.

Shabana Azmi plays a teacher who has not learnt her history lesson — her students have better knowledge; and Jaya Prada is the Ms. Terror, doing somersaults in helicop-



Mithun Chakraborty

ters and beating up would-be suitors.

Women live up to the title Mardana Wali Baat — the manliness. Not surprising at all. The village men chicken out after Raj flies in a rage and shoots everything in pants. All men who survive the slaughter run for their lives. So, women decide to "defend the honour, dignity and safety" of the village.

Apart from the rhetoric and the usual dacoit chases, the film offers some comic moments with Dharmendra and Sunjay Dutt playing two men who'd rather be doing something else. Not the best movie of the year, though, but tolerable enough to pass an evening if you have nothing better to do.

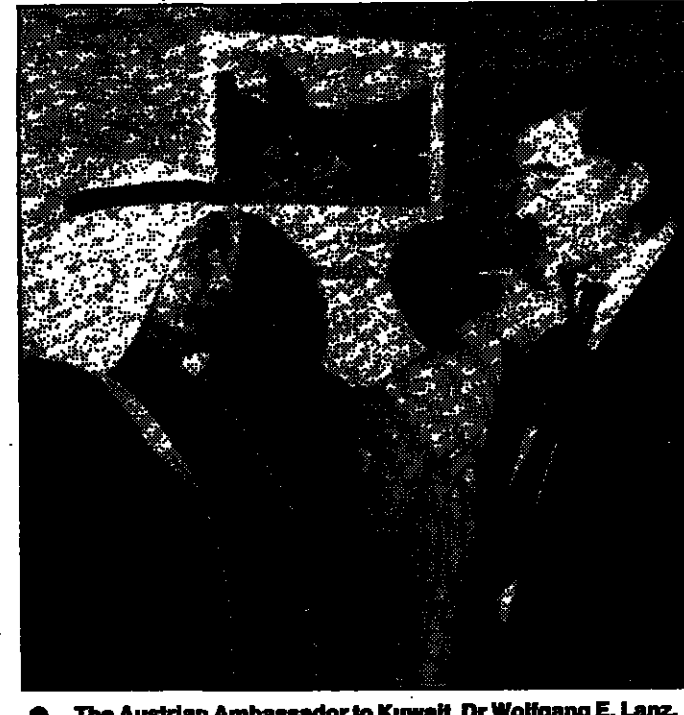
The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St. Farwaniya.



Jaya Prada



● The Kuwait Meridien Hotel recently held its annual staff party in Al Jahra Ballroom. Live entertainment was provided by the hotel staff. Employees of the Month and Employees of the Year received their awards. Certificates were given to hotel employees with five and 10 years of service. Picture shows Meridien's General Manager Mattnuller with the hotel staff.



● The Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Wolfgang E. Lanz, hosted a reception on Saturday at the Hilton Hotel for the visiting members of a trade mission from the Chamber of Commerce of Carinthia. The trade delegation was led by its president K.R. Karl Baurecht. Picture shows Austrian Ambassador Dr Lanz with guests.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News Via Satellite
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Ma'Laeb: cartoon serial.
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.45 Nuruddin Zanki: historical serial; with Ali Hassan and Laila Taher.
- 5.30 Mama Anisa and Children
- 6.00 Cultural Film
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 Weekend — repeat
- 7.35 Quran and Science: "Umam Al Makloqat", hosted by Dr Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim.
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Photographs: daily Arabic serial, featuring Abdullah Ghaith, Madiha Hamdi, Jamil Rateb, Mohammad Rida.
- 10.50 Daerat Al Ahdath: "Circle of Events". A weekly talk show on "The Education System and Teachers". Guests are Rashad Hamad Al Hamad and Dr Saad Hashel.
- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 World News Via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown



Richard Kiley in A Year in the Life, at 10.30 pm on KTV 2 tonight.

KTV 2

- 1.30 Holy Quran
- 2.00 HH the Amir's Cup: show jumping contests for the Amir's Cup.
- 6.10 Yogis Treasure Hunt: cartoons
- 6.30 The Animal Express: a look at wild goats and catfish.
- 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.
- 7.30 Chintz: Richard plans to travel around UK.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Law and Harry MacGraw: "State of

the Art". MacGraw defends a man accused of stealing paintings. BBC documentary. "Life Story" examines genes — and how scientists discover the secrets of DNA.

10.30 Mini-Series: "A Year in the Life" Gardner has a disagreement with a neighbour.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Religious Service
- 0100 News Summary followed by 1st The Sound Dancer, 8th 30 Lankan Phone-In; from 15th Feature/Drama
- 0700 World News
- 45 First Recordings of British Symphonies (ex 22nd and 25th Virtuoso)
- 0200 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Peoples' Choice
- 30 Science in Action
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0400 Newsweek
- 30 Augustus Carr Esq By Himself (ex 1st and 8th Five William Stories)
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Waveguide
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Nature Notebook
- 45 Recording of the Week
- 0600 Newsweek
- 30 Australia 200 years on (ex 15th Chemistry of Sex Appeal; 22nd You're Never Alone; 29th On the Border)
- 0700 World News

- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 1st Not in Our Stars: 8th Faust, Desire and the Devil; 15th The Insurance Game; 22nd Mind and Music; 29th Airports — The Dangerous Side of Flying.
- 0800 World News
- 15 August Carr Esq By Himself (ex 1st Five William Stories and 8th Sri Lankan Phone-In)
- 30 Anything Goes (ex 25th)
- 0700 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Peoples' Choice
- 1000 News Summary followed by Australia 200 Years on (ex 15th Chemistry of Sex Appeal; 22nd You're Never Alone; 29th On the Border)
- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Health Matters
- 30 Album Time
- 1200 Radio Newsworld
- 15 Just A Minute
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Anything Goes
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 I've Been Together Now for 70 Years (ex 29th Camery Row)

1500 Radio Newsworld
- 15 Australia 200 Years on (ex 15th Chemistry of Sex Appeal; 22nd You're Never Alone; 29th On the Border)
- 45 Capriccio (ex 1st A Mozart Miscellany)

ALL TIMES GMT

English

- MORNING
- 08.00 Opening
- 08.02 Songs and Music
- 08.05 Science Journal
- 08.20 Songs and Music
- 08.30 News
- 08.40 Songs and Music
- 08.45 Daily Programme
- 09.00 Songs and Music
- 09.15 Writers and Their Works
- 09.30 Radio Magazine Supplement
- 10.00 Our Press Today
- 10.05 Songs and Music
- 10.30 Songs and Music
- 11.00 Closedown
- 12.30 News on the FM Service
- EVENING
- 21.00 Opening
- 21.02 Bits and Bites
- 21.30 News
- 21.45 Point of View
- 21.55 Songs and Music
- 22.00 Facts about Zionism
- 22.15 Magazine Special
- 22.45 Daily Programme
- 23.00 Pili Mail
- 24.00 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Al Mutawa Pharmacy
- Awkaf Bldg., Hilali St.
- Al Hakim Pharmacy
- Jaber Al Mubarak St.
- Hawalli and Nagra
- Al Khayyam Pharmacy
- Beirut St.
- Salmiya and Rumailhiya
- Al Shifa Pharmacy
- Hmoud Al Anjari Complex
- Salem Al Mubarak St.
- Fahsheel and Ahmadi
- Al Ittehad Pharmacy
- Makkah St.
- Farwaniya
- Al Najat Pharmacy
- Main St.
- Jahra
- Al Zahra Pharmacy
- New Market

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus
- Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
- Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
- Al Salmiya
- The Living Daylights
- Starring: Timothy Dalton
- Al Hamra
- Hasna'a Wa Amalqah (Arabic)
- Starring: Huwaida, Fuad Sharfuddin
- Drive-In
- Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
- Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
- Al Firdous
- Param Dharma (Hindi)
- Starring: Mithun Chakraborty, Mandakini
- Fahsheel Open-Air
- Professor Pyarelal (Hindi)

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.16 am
Zuhr	12.02
Asr	3.05 pm
Maghreb	5.25
Isha	6.45

SPORTS

Filipino Non-Pro Bowling League
This week's match is on Friday, Feb 5. The matches in the morning are between Pasig vs Quezon City; Calocan City vs Las Pinas and Malabon vs Paranaque. Pasig City vs Manduluyong; Manila vs Marikina and Navotas vs Makati will play in the afternoon. The games will be held at the Club 300.

Kapilku Sports Festival
Entry forms for this year's Palangon Filipino — sports festival 1988 — are now available. Organised by Kapilku. During the yearlong event several events will be held. They are: Basketball, Volleyball, Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis, Bowling, Dama-Checkers, Chess and Darts. All events are open to men and women. For entry forms contact Gil Herico at the Philippine Embassy. For further details contact Bong Melencio — 4877793.

Soccer Team
A group of young Italians are organising a European soccer team. If you are interested please contact Carlo on Tel. 2445120/1/2/3/4.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Tareq Rajah Museum
The museum is open daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, except Friday, when it will be open only in the mornings. A large selection of Islamic artefacts from the Arab and Muslim world are on show.

National Museum
Modern art paintings by Kuwaiti artist Ahmed Al Munayes are displayed at the National Museum; open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 6 pm.

THEATRE

KLT — Comedy
KLT's comedy Say Who You Are, directed by Steve Prescott, opens with a gala performance at 7 pm on Feb 1. Repeat performances are at 7.30 pm on Feb 2, 3 and 4. Tickets — KD 3. For reservations call 3947651. Tickets must be collected from the Box Office, KLT, Ahmadi, or from Family Bookshop, Salmiya, two days before the performance date.

SOCIAL

Winter Serenade
The Kuwait Players Winter Serenade features haute cuisine, music, show stoppers, nostalgic ballads, moody blues and celebrated classics performed by Ross, Jenny, Lynley, Reem, Rosie and Carol. Directed by Peter Godfrey, Ross Langhorne and Glenis Muckle. It will be held in the Grand Ballroom, Meridien Hotel, on Feb 1, 2, and 3. Feb 4 Gala Dinner and show at 7.30 pm. For details ring 2656265; 5334695; 5334695 or 5730641.

Japan Week
A seminar on Japanese business will be held on Feb 3 at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Building from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm. For further details, tel. 2533000 ext. 1156.

Kuwait Welsh Society
Annual St David's Day dinner at Messilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. For tickets and further details phone 4874548; 3910875; 3912384.

Kapilku membership
Filipinos are invited to join Kapilku. Membership cards are available at the Philippine Embassy. For details call Jojo — 4877793.

Goan Show

The Goan Community will hold a cultural show to celebrate the 40th anniversary of India's independence on Feb 5, 3.30 pm at the Indian Arts Circle, Finatites. Invitation cards available from the Football Club, Kuwait Goans Association, N.G.O.A. and organisers. Transport will be available at 2.30 pm on Friday (Feb 5) from the Church in Kuwait City, Abbasiya Coop. and Farwaniya, main road (opp. Grand Stores).

Flaskik
Flaskik will hold a Valentine dinner-musical at 6.30 pm Feb 12, Friday, at Al Dira Ballroom, Ramada Al Salam Hotel. Free transport will be provided from the Church at 6 pm. For tickets ring 2439451. Mabuhay or Lords Restaurants.

Kuwait Singers
Rehearsals for the May concert are held at 7.30 pm every Saturday and Monday. New members welcome. Tel: 5331413.

Canadian Women's League
The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb 6, from 4 to 6 pm. For venue and further details ring 3718678.

HOTELS

At the Ramada Al Salam
Daily lunch, chef's special and dinner buffet at the Coffee Shop, open 24 hours. From Sunday to Friday, succulent steak and seafood specialties for fine dining at El Messa Restaurant, from 7 pm to 1.30 am.

At the Continental
Gardenia offers food and beverage service on the Terrace. Daily dinner buffet and on Fridays, lunch buffet with charcoal grilled specialties. Darbar features daily lunch buffet and a la carte for dinner.

At the Sheraton
A wide repertoire of music ranging from 17th to 20th century music, including light jazz, will be presented by the Sheba Sound, a quartet of two oboes, a bassoon and harpsichord. The group will give a one-night performance on Feb 10. For details contact the hotel.

At the Holiday Inn
Holiday Inn Desert Tent for company picnics, large gatherings, cool breeze, food, fun and games. For details contact the hotel.

At the Meridien
Versailles open daily for lunch and dinner featuring a selection of meats and seafood, charcoal grilled to perfection. Affordable business lunch also offered.

"Open face" sandwiches are being promoted at the Al Waha Restaurant, until Feb 11.

At the Hilton
All-day dining at la Palma, featuring oriental, continental and international cuisine, open for lunch and dinner. The Failaka Restaurant offers a specialty menu plus chef's recommendations ranging from appetizers to desserts, and the usual grazing menu.

At the SAS
Every Tuesday is Sahrat Al Khema — oriental night. Experience the exotic charm of the orient at the Tent, Arabian bazaar, perfumes, jewellery, clothes and rugs are some of the attractions. Dinner, live music and raffle prizes.

At Messilah Beach
British impressionist and comedian J. Harvey, who appeared in ITV's Copy Cats, will perform at the hotel's Nightclub on Feb 10. For details contact the hotel.



● Winter Serenade opens tonight for a four-night run in Al Jahra Ballroom, Meridien Hotel. Picture shows three dancers rehearsing for the show.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BEFORE buying anything, it is well to ask whether one could not do without it — John Lubbock, English astronomer-mathematician (1803-1865).

Khomeini holds key to Iran's future

By Mohammad Zargham

NICOSIA, (Reuters): Nine years after his triumphant return from exile on the crest of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini still holds the key to Iran's future. Whether the issue is the extent of the government's role in the economy or the propriety of screening football games on television, a statement by the country's 85-year-old spiritual leader can make all the difference.

Conferences are often held to discuss and expand on his major rulings, which many officials say carry the weight of divine decrees.

Khomeini returned from 15 years of exile on a bright, chilly morning on Feb 1, 1979, aboard a chartered Air France jumbo jet from Paris.

Asked what he felt at the time, he said simply: "Nothing."

Last year, Khomeini pronounced on several controversial issues. But there was no change in his stand on the most important question facing Iran — whether to end the 7-1/2 year-long war with Iraq and, if so, when.

His hostility to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is based on theological and political grounds. Khomeini spent several years in exile in Iraq under close surveillance before being expelled in 1978 under pressure from the late Shah of Iran.

Iran launched a new mobilisation for the war last November asking able-bodied men to volunteer for military duty and others to contribute money, only after Khomeini gave his blessing.

He was the first to donate to the "financial holy war" giving 10 million rials (\$10,000 at the open market exchange rate) for the upkeep of 30 soldiers on the warfronts for three months.

Few combatants interviewed on television in almost daily send-off ceremonies fail to say they are leaving family and friends only to obey Khomeini's order.

Khomeini derives his power from his near-holy status and his influence on senior officials, many of whom were his students when he taught at the holy city of

Qom and later in the Iraqi town of Najaf.

A country-wide network of personal representatives and Friday prayer leaders spread his teachings across Iran.

What most people see of Khomeini is television films of his occasional public meetings in the Husseiniyeh — a large religious meeting hall — next to his home in the north Tehran suburb of Jamaran.

Wearing a black turban, long brown or black robe and slippers, Khomeini enters through a door on a small balcony in the Husseiniyeh.

Meetings

He walks in short steps to a sheet-draped seat, slowly weaving his right hand to the visitors who chant emotional slogans.

Often he does not speak, but sits with a grim face through a short speech by a Muslim cleric, gets up and, flanked by several close aides, walks out to another round of slogans from the crowd below.

For smaller meetings, he receives officials in what looks like his study: a small room with a shelf lined with books but little other furnishing. Visitors sit on the carpeted floor while Khomeini sits on a chair or bed with a blanket over his knees.

At one such meeting in December, Khomeini summoned about a dozen close associates to announce he had revised his political will and gave them two copies of the testament for safekeeping.

The contents were not disclosed, but some officials said the presence at the meeting of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, chosen in 1985 by an assembly of senior clerics as Iran's future leader, indicated Khomeini had endorsed the choice.

Khomeini's revision of his political testament coincided with Western media reports that he was seriously ill. Iranian officials denied the reports and Khomeini showed no special sign of weakness in later appearances on television.

Britain making abortions difficult

By Andrew Gumbell

LONDON, (Reuters): Britain has begun to turn the clock back on its liberal abortion law, passed in the 1960s during a sociological revolution which also reformed laws on divorce and homosexuality.

Parliament, ignoring the pleas of women's rights groups, approved in principle a bill which would reduce the time limit for abortions to 18 weeks of pregnancy from 28.

The bill has several other stages to go through before it becomes law but the unexpectedly large support it received from MPs worried its opponents, who saw it as the biggest challenge yet to the 1967 Abortion Act.

The breakthrough, after a number of unsuccessful previous attempts to restrict the availability of abortions, has come at a time when the Conservative government is legislating to control school teaching on homosexuality.

Anti-abortion groups hailed the abortion vote as "a victory for compassion." Opponents voiced fears that a harsher law would lead to an increase in the birth of handicapped babies and a return to back street abortions.

The sponsor of the bill is David Alton, an earnest Roman Catholic bachelor who belongs to the small opposition Liberal Party. One irony is that the current law is the work of another one-man campaign by David Steel who is now the Liberal leader.

Alton's opponents hope to force through amendments to his bill during coming committee hearings which might make the time limit 24 weeks instead of 18. But Alton, who is a staunch opponent of all abortion, said his majority of 45 was bigger than expected and made him unwilling to make concessions.

Alton's bill is the fourth to be approved by Parliament at this stage since the 1967 act. The previous three were all quashed

in committee or killed by procedural delays.

Public opinion on a tightening of abortion legislation seems to be more divided than ever. A recent poll conducted for the independent newspaper showed people divided equally between favouring restriction and wanting to keep the law as it is.

Many politicians including Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher believe the present 28-week upper limit is too high.

Under the 1967 act, a woman may seek termination of her pregnancy up to that time if she can convince two doctors that her physical or mental health is at substantial risk.

In practice however, very few abortions — only 29 in 1986 — take place after the 24th week, the limit favoured by leading medical associations.

Millions

Opponents of the bill say late abortions are inevitable because of the need to see two doctors and find a hospital that is willing to perform the operation. Many hospitals do not allow abortions after 12 weeks, and doctors and nurses are entitled by law to refuse to take part in them.

Alton supporters are shocked at the three million abortions carried out legally since 1967. More than 172,000 were performed in 1986, of which over 8,000 were after 18 weeks.

Pro-choice activists are worried that the women most affected by the bill would be those with least recourse to help. These include teenagers frightened to admit to anyone including themselves that they are pregnant, women near menopause who do not realise they are pregnant, rape victims and foreign women who come to Britain because of restrictive laws in their own countries.

Government figures show that 38 per cent of women having late abortions are under 20. A family planning organisation for young people described Parliament's backing for the bill as "highly irresponsible at a time when family planning services are faced with increasing cuts."



A Washington DC policeman arresting three muggers.

There is a second Washington — poor and black

Other side of the coin

By Christopher Hanson

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Many people associate the US capital with wealth and influence — high-rolling lobbyists, \$200 business lunches, black-tie White House galas and bureaucrats commuting to affluent suburbs.

That is one Washington, sometimes called "powertown."

There is a second Washington, poor and black.

It is largely ignored by top officials and all but local news media, even though police say the city's poorest areas are being shaken by a drug war of unprecedented violence between rival gangs of cocaine pushers.

As President and Mrs Reagan press their "Just say no" campaign against drug abuse, the narcotics war on their own doorstep is putting automatic weapons into the hands of young people. The capital's murder rate has soared.

"There's been nothing, nothing, comparable to this," officer Gary Hankins, 17-year veteran of the District of Columbia police force and spokesman for the police union, the Fraternal Order of Police, said.

Carnage

Last year there were 228 homicides in Washington, up from 197 in 1986 and 148 in 1985. Police say some 60 per cent of the 1987 killings were drug-related, compared with 30 per cent in 1986.

The city had the second-highest 1987 per capita US murder rate, topped only by Detroit, according to a Washington Post survey of crime statistics.

In the first 20 days of January 1988, there were 25 murders in Washington, according to police records.

Metropolitan Washington's population of about 623,000 includes about 30 per cent white residents, most of them well-off, as well as a thriving black middle class.

Douglas Carter, assistant

principal of Hamilton Junior High School in a poor black neighbourhood, said he had heard children discussing the Israeli-made Uzi submachine-gun.

"In the past they wouldn't have known an Uzi from a water pistol," Carter said.

Many assailants and victims in the recent wave of shootings have been young. More than 200 juveniles suffered gunshot wounds in Washington last year and 19 died, police say. Recent fatalities included several teenagers.

At the funeral of one of his pupils, Carter declared: "We have to do something to stop the killings and the madness. Our babies are dying."

Police argue that overcrowded prisons have undermined the threat of jail as a deterrent to armed assault and drug dealing.

Many are back on the streets soon after arrest.

Refugees

The city has been releasing prisoners early due to overcrowding, but officer Hankins argued that swift, sure punishment was vital and said more prisons must be built.

Under the circumstances, "Just say no" campaigns and other public education can have little impact.

"There are a lot of very ethical and moral parents telling their kids to stay out of this stuff, but they are also making minimum wage, five or \$6 an hour, in a lower-income existence that's not attractive," Hankins said.

"While they're trying to keep these kids straight, the kid goes out the front door and sees another 15-year-old (a drug dealer) who has more money than he knows what to do with. We've seen \$400 outfits on these kids, \$100 tennis shoes."

"The reality of what kids see on the street cheapens the preaching of the parents to the point there's no contest."

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Up the chimney, down the chute to Kabul

By Hugh Pain

KABUL, (Reuters): In Afghanistan, they prefer to fly at night.

The Stinger missile has changed the war since the Muslim mujahideen rebels got their hands on it some 18 months ago.

To succeed in downing an aircraft, it has to be fired at least approximately in the direction of its target, which is made more difficult if there is nothing to aim at but the sound of the engines echoing off the hills.

As we were the potential target, there was little objection to waiting until after dark before taking off.

We, on this occasion, were a delegation of Afghan notables, a few Indians and some Soviet and Western journalists. Plus a dozen or so Soviet soldiers hitching a ride to the capital for leave. Some 35 passengers divided by mutual incomprehension and united by a desire to arrive in Kabul in one piece.

Sleep

The method of avoiding the alternative, devised over the months of the war since the Stingers arrived, is to take off and spiral steeply upwards over the city — in this case Jalalabad — which is taken to be the area least infested with Stinger-armed guerrillas, until a comfortable 8,000 metres (26,000 feet) or so is reached.

Climbing the chimney, the pilots call it.

The Antonov then levels out, roars across to Kabul and throttles back, diving in kamikaze fashion towards the runway and pulling level at the last moment to land in a roar of reverse thrust.

This is the chute, or the ski run. Walls have ears, and flight plans are a state secret. "Tonight ... tomorrow ... perhaps," is our

take off time, we are variously told.

The passengers wait, timelessly drinking tea, in the dismal hotel Spin Ghar, where the receptionists stash their guns behind the desk, soldiers sleep in the lounge and you can almost touch the boredom.

Then in a sudden flurry of urgency, a jeep to the airfield. Onto the darkened, paraffin-smelling tarmac, soldiers with greatcoats, caps with earflaps against the cold, AK-47s across their chests.

The plane's interior has a dim green light. Long benches along a metal cavern, shadowy figures seated, a glow from the cockpit, equipment strewn along the middle, a pile of vomit on the floor from its previous trip.

At intervals the lights flick on, revealing us to each other. Mullahs clicking beads, unkempt journalists, Soviet soldiers with machine pistols, AK-47s, submachine guns with spare clips taped on. One of the soldiers, a baby-faced kid of perhaps 18, sucks his rifle's muzzle like a comforter.

We wait. An hour or so. Attempts at conversation fail. No building of East-West bridges tonight.

The AN-26 aircraft is a workhorse. Nobody praises it for its speed, its comfort, its quietness or its reliability. Two deafening turbo props pull it along, high mounted wings offer an uninterrupted view of whatever lies below — lights, gunfire or the endless blackness of the mountains.

Journalists are supposed to be neutral. But inside the fuselage, vibrating enough to shake the fillings from your teeth, there is no question whose side you are on.

The Russians and the Afghan pilot are the good guys: the unseen, probably non-existent mujahideen and their damned US-supplied missiles in the unfathomable darkness are the enemy.

"What's the in-flight movie tonight?" asks a voice.

The stings, suggests another. The Russians and the Afghans do not understand. The English-speakers do, but nobody laughs.

From Jalalabad to Kabul is only 150 km (90 miles), but the flight takes nearly an hour. Half of it is the vertiginous climb, curving around the lights of the town, gaining precious altitude away from the airstrip, above missile range.

Separate

The rebels, known throughout Afghanistan as the mullahs, do not often hit civilians. The last AN-26, carrying 30 passengers and six crew, was shot down on Feb 9, 1987. Nearly a year ago, the odds are encouraging, but not conclusive. Everyone on board was killed.

After 15 minutes level flight the Antonov abruptly tilts in a gut-wrenching, ear-popping dive through the night into the lights of the city.

The wheels stalk out of the engine pods, there is a blur of lights, roads, parked helicopters, and the plane lands gently, taxis to the military terminal back to the guns, tanks, military normality.

The brief mixture of humanity separates like oil from water. Afghan from Soviet, soldier from civilian, East from West. Nobody says goodbye.

It has been an ordinary run, a totally uneventful flight in Afghanistan. You can get used to anything.

Doubts over Iran overtures

By Philip Shehadi

IRAQ'S Gulf Arab allies are moving towards holding a Syrian-brokered dialogue with revolutionary Iran, though some officials doubt it will ease tensions in the troubled region.

Iran agreed last week to a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) proposal to hold talks on improving ties, strained by the Iran-Iraq war and clashing political and religious ideologies. The rift has exposed tankers or oil facilities of two of the six GCC members, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, to Iranian attack and led to an unprecedented foreign naval buildup in the Gulf.

A Gulf Arab official who asked not to be identified said the six states would be represented at the talks by the UAE, which has long had good ties with Tehran.

Trap

He disputed a statement by Iran's ambassador to the UAE last week that representatives from all seven states would attend.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been silent on the proposed dialogue and were ready to give negotiations a try.

But some officials, recalling that previous efforts to improve relations with Iran had failed, expressed scepticism.

"Has anything come out of such attempts in the past?" asked one official. "Iran is still hitting ships."

A Kuwaiti newspaper was more forthright. "As long as aggression exists, the call to cooperation or dialogue is nothing but a strategic trap aimed not only at Iraq but at the whole Arab world," it wrote last week.

The GCC wants Iran to halt attacks on shipping in the Gulf and to stop firing missiles at Kuwait, which says seven Chinese-made Silkworms were targeted at its oil facilities last year.

Saudi Arabia is keen to avoid a repeat of riots involving Iranian pilgrims during last year's annual Muslim pilgrimage in Makkah when hundreds of people were killed.

Tehran seeks the departure of around 80 foreign warships which converged on the Gulf to protect international shipping after a flare-up of its so-called "tanker war" with Iraq.

Diplomats said Iran would almost certainly link any improvement in relations with the GCC to a lessening of Gulf Arab support for Iraq — something which Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in particular are unwilling to do.

Visits

Iraq has bitterly attacked the proposed dialogue as a breach in a united front against Iran created at last November's Arab League summit in Amman.

But Oman's Sultan Qaboos and UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan apparently persuaded other heads of state at a GCC summit last month in Riyadh to pursue the idea.

Syria, the main Arab ally of Iran, appeared to have helped to overcome Saudi Arabia's initial reluctance, diplomats said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara visited Riyadh on the eve of the summit and went there again last week after

making several trips to Tehran in the past two months.

Syrian officials say the initiative by Damascus has improved the political atmosphere in the Gulf, despite continued attacks on shipping by both Iran and Iraq.

Diplomats said a momentary easing in tensions was reflected by a visit to Tehran last week by two Kuwaiti officials to make an inventory of papers and furniture at the Kuwaiti embassy, sacked by demonstrators on Aug 1 after the Makkah riots.

Diplomats said their mission could lead to the reopening of the embassy although no decision had yet been taken.

Kuwaiti newspapers have accused Iran of playing for time while preparing a major new ground offensive against Iraq.

The offensive has yet to take place, but one official said this might be for military or tactical reasons and did not necessarily mean Iran was less determined to fight.

Undercut

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia believe a dialogue could undercut efforts at the United Nations to impose an arms embargo against Iran to force it to accept last July's Security Council resolution ordering a ceasefire, diplomats said.

They also said it would be difficult to imagine Iran halting attacks on shipping unless Iraq stopped its air raids on tankers exporting Iranian oil.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed told the Kuwait News Agency in Tunis, where he attended an Arab foreign ministers meeting, that there was no need for mediation between the GCC and Iran.

He did not make clear if he was referring to Syria's diplomatic efforts, but said Iran and the Gulf Arab states had embassies in each other's countries and could speak directly.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1587 — England's Queen Elizabeth I signs warrant for execution of Mary Queen of Scots.
- 1702 — Prince Eugene of Savoy raids Cremona, Italy.
- 1775 — Peasants in Bohemia revolt against servitude.
- 1881 — First signs of nationalist movement appear in Egypt as military officers stage uprising.
- 1896 — Crete, inspired by Greece, begins revolution against Turkey.
- 1899 — US flag is raised over Pacific island of Guam, formerly under Spanish control.
- 1908 — Portugal's King Carlos I and crown prince are murdered in Lisbon, and Manuel II becomes King.
- 1924 — Britain recognises communist government of Soviet Union.
- 1935 — Anglo-German conference is held in London to discuss Germany's rearmament; Italy sends troops to East Africa.
- 1946 — Trygve Lie, Norwegian socialist, is elected United Nations secretary general; Hungarian republic is proclaimed.
- 1956 — South Africa requests Soviet Union to withdraw all consulates.
- 1959 — Swiss referendum rejects female suffrage in federal elections.
- 1972 — British embassy in Dublin is bombed as anti-British demonstrations sweep Ireland.
- 1987 — Firemen put death toll at 18 in blaze that swept small hotel in southern Taiwan that was packed with tourists celebrating Chinese lunar new year.



OLD and new sources of energy come together in this photo of a windmill and cooling tower of a nuclear power plant near Doel, Belgium. Belgium receives 70 per cent of its energy from nuclear power plants. (Reuter wirephoto)



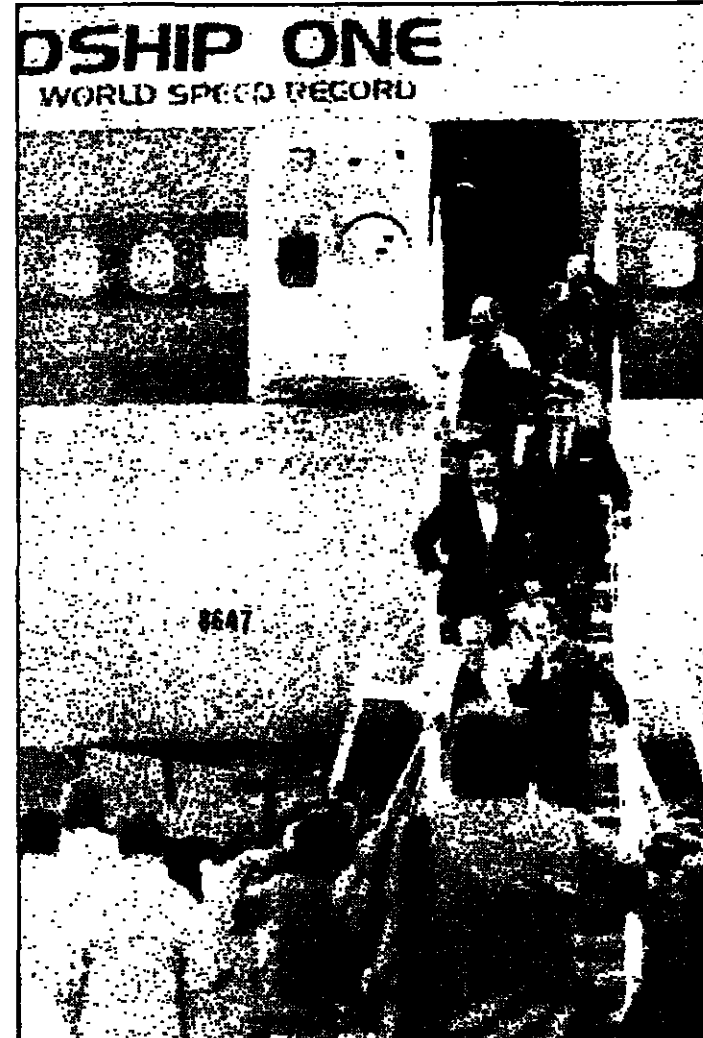
SAUDI Arabia's Foreign Minister Crown Prince Saud Al Faisal stands with Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov during the farewell ceremony at the end of his official visit to Moscow on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)



US special envoy Philip Habib (left) talks to Jordan's King Hussein at his palace in Amman on Saturday. Habib delivered a letter from President Ronald Reagan concerning Israeli-occupied territories. The move came after US officials said they would discuss with Jordan and Israel Egyptian proposals on Middle East peace. (Reuter wirephoto)



IGOR Palenikh, chief of the Soviet verification delegation and Sergey Zelentsov (right) answer questions at a news conference on Saturday before returning to Moscow. Canisters in the foreground contain material exchanged with US scientists used for plugging nuclear test holes to prevent the escape of radiation during weapons testing. (Reuter wirephoto)



NEIL Armstrong and Capt. Clay Lacy lead the 100 passengers and crew off the "Friendship One" after they shattered the civilian record for an around-the-world flight by nearly nine hours on Saturday. The United Airlines Boeing 747SP began its journey from Seattle at 7:23 pm on Jan 28 and ended its flight in Seattle at 8:17 am. Unofficial time is 36 hrs, 54 min, 15 sec. (Reuter wirephoto)



A LOCAL resident steals a kiss as the Princess of Wales walks among the crowd in Sydney yesterday. The Prince and Princess of Wales are on a ten-day tour of Australia. (Reuter wirephoto)



A WOMAN, one of 1,500 people made homeless during battles in Cape Town's KTC squatter camp during the weekend, salvages iron sheets to build a shelter elsewhere. (Reuter wirephoto)



FINNISH President and presidential candidate Mauno Koivisto speaks in Helsinki on Saturday during his last campaign rally before today's election. Koivisto looked certain to be re-elected as the latest poll showed his popularity steady at 52 per cent. (Reuter wirephoto)



A POLICE officer is on observation duty during the FA Cup Fourth Round tie between Leyton Orient and Nottingham Forest on Saturday. Incidents delayed the match between Queen's Park Rangers and West Ham where West German police observers studied English crowd control methods. (Reuter wirephoto)



DESCRIBED by their designers as the ultimate status symbol in pyjama bags, caricatures of Prince Charles and Princess Diana are inspected by young Aaron Henshaw, 2, in a spoof bedroom setting in London. The novel pyjama bags are among exhibits at a toy fair. (Reuter wirephoto)



IN a break from usual protocol, Argentine President Raul Alfonsin (left) went for a Saturday drive with Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez at the wheel shortly after meeting in Madrid on Saturday. Alfonsin arrived in Madrid for a three-day visit expected to focus on economic cooperation. (Reuter wirephoto)



WATER left over from several days of rain reflects the arches in Parc du Cinquanteaire in Brussels yesterday. The park is very popular for afternoon walks, rain or shine. (Reuter wirephoto)

By Norman Myers

IT IS just ten years ago since a maverick scientist asserted that we are not losing one species per year, as had been the conventional wisdom. He proposed we were losing one species per day. Today he believes the rate is several species per day and that within another ten years it will rise to several species per hour.

Not that we can give a name to the species that disappeared yesterday. We have identified only 1.7 million species, out of a supposed total of at least 5 million, more likely 10 million, and possibly 30 million, conceivably 50 million.

We can now measure the distance from a given point on the Earth's surface to its opposite number on the Moon's surface to within half a centimetre, yet we don't know the total number of life forms sharing our planet to within better than an order of magnitude.

It is a scandal of modern science that we remain so absurdly ignorant of a basic aspect of our planet's biology — the only planet that we know in the universe to support life of any sort.

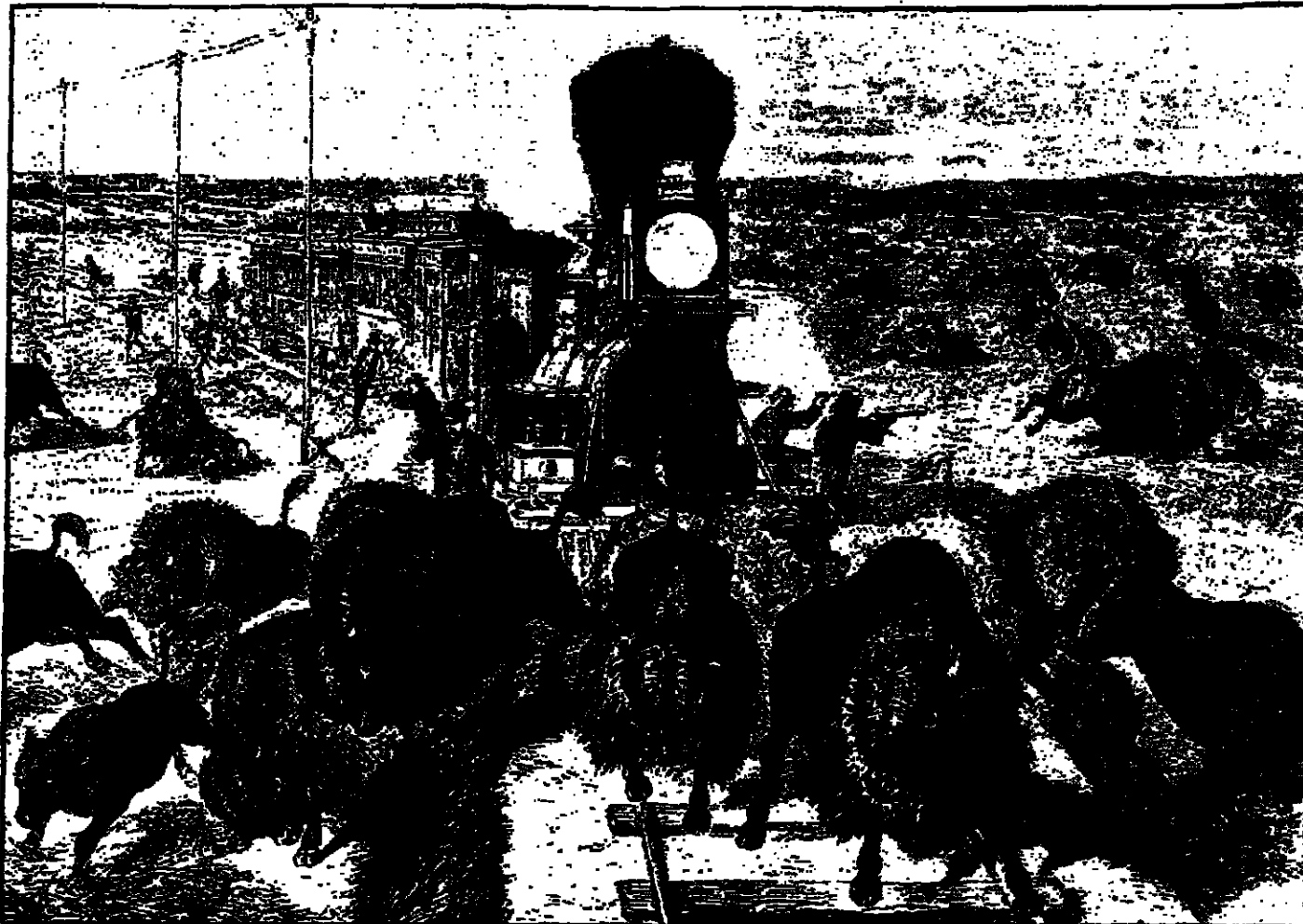
Exist

Nor are we ever likely to establish how many species exist. The distribution of taxonomists and systematists is grossly skewed. Colombia is estimated to harbour 30,000 plant species, but the number of Colombian scientists capable of determining a new plant species is less than one dozen. Here in Britain we have 1300 plant species and 1,400 botanists, i.e. more experts than there are plants for them to look at.

We can only surmise that several species actually disappeared yesterday. But there is a lot of sound evidence in support of the estimate, as we shall see. And herein lies the difference with ten years ago. In those far-back days, we could presume a species was extant unless proven extinct. We will soon be approaching a stage where in many cases, we will have to suppose a species extinct unless proven extant. Within the lifetimes of many readers, we may well witness the summary demise of at least one quarter, and possibly one half of our fellow species.

What is the evidence? Consider just three discrete areas. In

Earth's ecosystem under threat



the tropical forests of Madagascar, Atlantic-coast Brazil and Western Ecuador, there was originally a documented total of 26,000 vascular plant species, 12,500 of them being endemics, i.e. found nowhere else. We can realistically suppose that for every one plant species, there were at least 20 animal species (perhaps several times more), making a minimum total of 520,000 animal species, 250,000 of them being endemics.

Reduced

Forest in the three areas has either been reduced to less than 10 per cent of original extent, or will shortly become so. The findings of a scientific theory known as island biogeography indicate that when a habitat loses 90 per cent of its area, it

can support only 50 per cent of its original complement of species. So recent or near-future extinctions in these three areas alone could well total more than 130,000 species, plants and animals combined. If, as is likely, the great majority of these extinctions will have occurred during the last 50 years of this century there will have been eliminated an average of one plant species every three days, and seven animal species, possibly as many as five species every day.

I have recently analysed ten other "hot spot" areas of tropical forests — Western Amazonia, Eastern Himalayas, Philippines, etc. It turns out that in the 13 hot-spot areas taken together, almost 400,000 species are at risk of extinction by the end of the century or shortly thereafter, in a mere

200,000 square miles, only twice the area of Great Britain. At a more general level, and according to a leading American scientist, Dr Peter H. Raven, we can anticipate the elimination of a full two-fifths of tropical forest plants and animals, at least one million organisms (possibly several times more), within the next few decades.

All this depends of course on the continued depletion of species' habitats in tropical forests. Around 40,000 square miles of forest are cleared outright each year, and another 40,000 square miles are so disrupted through commercial logging and slash-and-burn cultivation that their biological diversity is sorely impoverished. True, these rates, continued evenly, would not mean the end of virgin tropical forests, all

3.6 million square miles remaining, until another 45 years have passed. But the rate is accelerating, so much so that by the year 2020 there may be little left in most areas.

As a measure of how fast the tide of destruction can overtake tropical forests, consider Rondonia, a France-sized state in Brazilian Amazonia. In 1975 only 460 square miles of forest had been cleared, but by 1985 the amount had grown to almost 11000 square miles. Were this exponential rate of increase in deforestation to be maintained (it reveals ever more momentum), it would lead to the elimination of half of Rondonia's forest by the early 1990s, and to elimination of the whole lot by the year 2,000.

Some observers consider these figures exaggerated. How, they ask, can peasants,

armed mainly with machetes and matchboxes, wreak such speedy damage? The best evidence comes in the form of remote-sensing data, as objective and systematic a form of documentation as one could wish for. Since 1980 a number of countries, including Burma, India, Madagascar, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Peru and Guatemala, have undertaken remote-sensing surveys of their forests.

In each case, it turns out that the deforestation rate is a good deal higher (between 9 and 38 per cent) than had been officially estimated.

So, there is sound evidence to support those who assert we are causing mega-extinction. The conclusion has been endorsed by an international conference convened by the US National Academy of Sciences last autumn.

A number of eminent biologists, including Peter Raven, Edward Wilson and Paul Ehrlich presented separate and independently derived sets of calculations, demonstrating that the extinction rate is indeed several species per day already.

These findings have been further confirmed in an inaugural statement of the Club of Earth, being a group of nine American biologists who are all members of the US National Academy of Sciences and of the American Academy of Sciences, i.e. aficionados whose professional credentials are established. They are unanimous in their view that we already have enough scientific information to urge political leaders and policymakers to get to vigorous grips with the extinction crisis forthwith.

What we are witnessing, in short, is an unprecedented experiment on a global scale. We are conducting the experiment all too unwittingly: it is entirely unplanned and uncoordinated. Its workings are mostly undefined and unmeasured.

So momentous are the implications of this global experiment, and so significant would be the loss of species "ecosystem service," that it should be regarded as a major threat to our biosphere. According to the Club of Earth scientists, it carries risks for the human cause that are surpassed only by those associated with nuclear war.

Environmental issues update

Pesticide export regulations will save lives

THE UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has passed a resolution that will require Third World nations to give their "prior informed consent" before hazardous pesticides can be exported to them. All FAO member states will have to comply with the new regulation within two years, unless it is rescinded. Attempts to get the new rule removed are already under way. Eight major pesticide manufacturing countries, France, UK, USA, Germany, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands do not support the resolution, which was passed on the overwhelming vote of Third World delegates. Over 10,000 people in developing nations are accidentally killed by pesticides each year, and the World Health Organisation believes that the regulation change will save many more lives than better training or labelling of pesticides could ever achieve. The new regulations will apply only to a few of the most dangerous pesticides, for example DDT, aldrin and dieldrin, the use of which has already been banned or severely restricted in most developed countries.

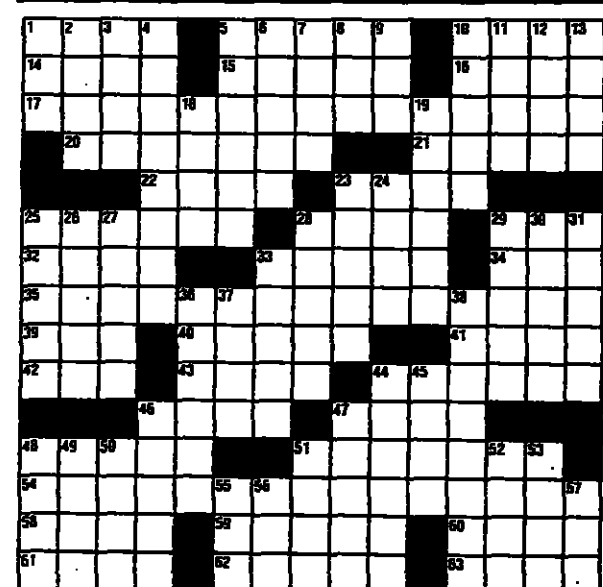
Coral reefs in trouble

CORALS, which form reefs in the Caribbean from Colombia to Bermuda, are losing their symbiotic algae, a loss which will lead to widespread coral death. Reef coral play an important role in the marine ecosystem and protect coastal regions from erosion by the sea. The loss of the algae — a process known as bleaching — was first noticed off the coast of Colombia. High water temperatures, increased sediments, hypersalinity or high nutrient levels can all cause the loss of the vital nitrogen-fixing algae. However, Dr Ernest Williams of the University of Puerto Rico reports that the pattern of bleaching points to a cause other than that of a physical nature. He believes that there may be some latent disease which is being stimulated by the changes in physical conditions.

Plans to reforest Amazonia

THE International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), a UN-sponsored council of 41 timber producer and consumer nations, has announced its first moves to encourage the proper and sustained use of tropical forests. After a meeting in their Yokohama base in November, the ITTO has approved a list of 12 projects on reforestation and sustainable management with a budget of US\$2.8 million. Amongst the projects proposed is a \$100,000 scheme aimed at reforesting 100,000 hectares of Amazonia forest in Brazil, with the World Wildlife Fund contributing 10% of the \$100,000 funding. The projects received backing despite the ITTO's executive director, Dr Freezallah, reporting that many council members still doubt whether sustainable forest management is economically feasible on a large scale. While the Yokohama meeting was proceeding, environmental organisations launched a campaign to stop Japan's destructive logging operations in Malaysia. Friends of the Earth International and the Japan Forest Action Network have called upon the Japanese timber trade to halt all imports of logs from Malaysia and to switch to importing tropical hardwood that has been grown in sustainably managed forests. Japan is the world's leading importer of tropical wood, 80% of its imports coming from Malaysia.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Range
 - Youngster
 - Region of SE Asia
 - African fox
 - Tentmaker of literature
 - Safe
 - Covering of a sort
 - Iron Chancellor
 - Iroquois Indians
 - Vinegar: Prefix
 - Trevino gadgets
 - Leo's pride
 - Popular souvenir
 - Enticement
 - Field judge, for short
 - Rapier
 - General
 - Anthony or Fort
 - Bern's river
 - Opponent of Woodrow Wilson
 - Business letter abbr.
 - More ripe
 - Faraway, to Cato
 - Preceded
 - Isle of Man native
 - Looked lasciviously
 - Manages
 - Activist
 - Goose genus
 - Miniature scene
 - Italian dictator
 - Islands near Galway Bay
 - Part of a pie
 - Allows
 - Bribes
 - Illinois city on the Mississippi
 - Tizzy
- DOWN**
- Cote sound

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K983 ♠ A76 ♠ Q109 ♠ 92
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—This depends on your methods. Your hand is too strong for a raise to two hearts. If you use limit raises, it is perfect for a jump to three hearts. If you play that as forcing, you must make a temporizing bid of one spade, and be prepared for a difficult rebid at your next turn.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AKQJ5 ♠ AQ ♠ K95 ♠ 632
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—No bid is perfect. Your high cards in partner's suit has improved an already powerful hand, and you must find a way to tell partner of your strength. We suggest a jump to three spades, despite the fact that you have only a five-card suit. Its quality more than compensates for the lack of a sixth card.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ QJ6 ♠ AQ95 ♠ K106 ♠ Q76
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
A.—You have a very good hand for partner, so game should be a cake-walk—bid three no trump. Even if partner has a maximum, your combined count of 32 is not enough to contemplate slam, and you have no long suit to provide a source of extra tricks. We do not recommend Stayman with such a perfectly balanced hand.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Q985 ♠ 62 ♠ K83 ♠ KJ62
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?

What action do you take?
A.—Don't bid one spade, the suit in which East is sure to hold four cards. And you are a whit short for a redouble. Your correct action is one no trump, to show a smattering of honors and no particular liking for partner's suit.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KQ763 ♠ 5 ♠ A1086 ♠ KJ4

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Only a greedy bidder would trot out two no trump or rebid his spades, while concealing such good support for partner's prime suit. It is time to complete the description of your hand by bidding three clubs. That would describe a holding of five spades, four diamonds (you would have opened one diamond with 4-4) and three clubs; hence, a singleton heart.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A1085 ♠ K96 ♠ Q862 ♠ J54
Partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two diamonds. What do you respond?
A.—While you have a balanced hand, your prime cards mean that your hand might play better in a suit than no trump. Partner is likely to have an unbalanced hand with a good suit, so we would set the suit by raising to three diamonds. That still gives us a chance to locate a 4-4 spade fit should that be partner's second suit.



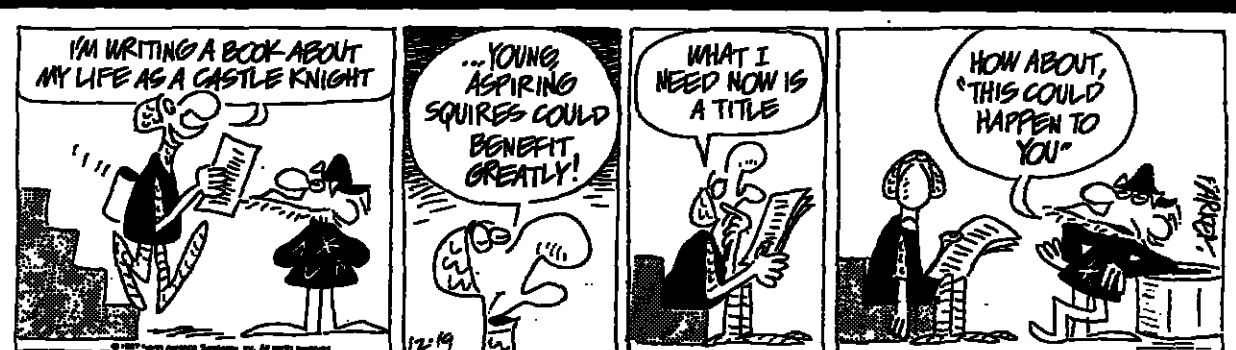
"You're doing your usual first class job of helping to get boxing banned."



"My wife's completely lost touch with reality — can't name one team in the First Division!"

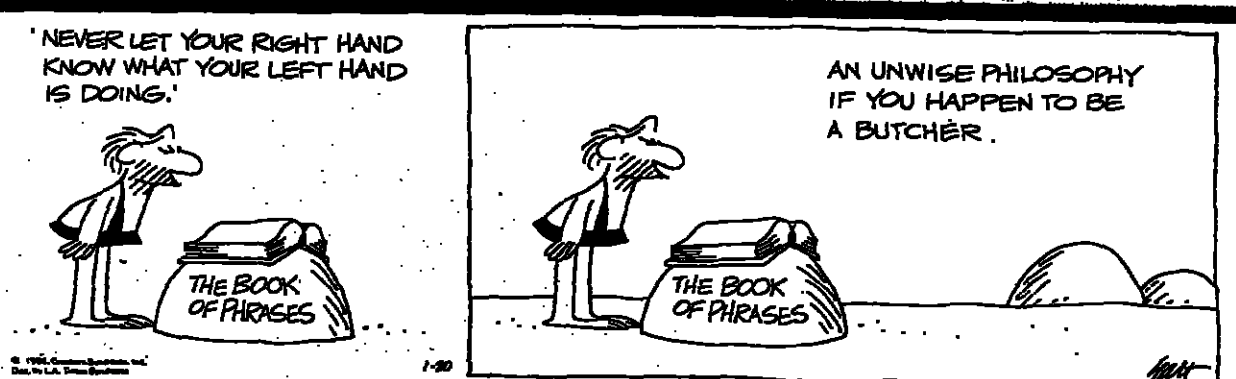
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You will have an interesting day but must keep your mind on what is most essential. This is a good time to drive a point home. Take an offer or proposal seriously. Be frank.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
Make sure you do not strain your eyes. Also ensure that your eyes are not larger than your purse. Pay a little more attention to what interests your partner. Be receptive.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
You are subject to positive influences but you must nonetheless not be reckless. A domestic problem will get worse if it is not faced now. There is every reason to have confidence in yourself.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)**
You should spend a little more time thinking before you take action. You should not believe all you see — look behind appearances. Venus's better influence will help you to effect a reconciliation.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You should do all that needs to be done to maintain harmony. You should not expect luck to make up for lack of judgment. Avoid eating more than you know you should. Be consistent.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
You will be able to get a lot done only you must not dally. A good idea of yours will bear fruit. Make sure you do not allow love to grow stale. Be a little more tactful.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You should show a little more goodwill. Do not take anything for granted just now. Try to spend a little more time with your family and friends. Be as good as your word.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
You will have to fight harder to resist temptation. You will be able to see the results of past actions. Try to use a little more common-sense. Be punctual.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
A little more optimism is in order. You should not take a stranger into your confidence. Avoid becoming involved in what does not concern you. Be sincere.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You will have some early doubts, but these will soon disappear. Make sure you do not lose touch with an old friend. Delay as little as possible. Be sensible.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
Mercury's better influence will help to make you more persuasive. Avoid spending too much time dwelling on the past. A small change of scene will do you good. Be more pliable.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
The Moon's more favourable influence will help you to do something about an outstanding matter. A good idea should be acted upon at once. You should not jump to conclusions. Be more resilient.

ART

When an art lover has a weakness for Mona Lisa's smile...

By Sheryl Wudman

HONG KONG, (Reuters): What does an art lover do if he has a limited budget and a weakness for Mona Lisa's mysterious smile, Van Gogh's sunflowers or Rembrandt's night watch?

He might go to Hong Kong, where artists reproduce masterpieces at a fraction of the multi-million dollar price tags on the originals.

"Whatever they want, we can do," said Wong Shui Hing, owner of Sea-God art company which has more than 300 artists working on replicas of masterpieces.

Purists may sniff with disdain but in this British colony, already a centre for illegal fake Rolex watches, counterfeit Ralph Lauren shirts and clones of IBM personal computers, perfectly legal art copies are a thriving business.

Hong Kong exported \$11.5 million worth of oil paintings last year — many of them imitations of the world's most famous works. Sales in the first half of this year climbed 13 per cent over the same period last year, according to trade authorities.

Exporters say paintings are deliberately made slightly different from the originals to avoid legal disputes with owners of the real things.

Wong said Rembrandts were out of fashion at the moment but artists were painting overtime to finish orders for Renoir remakes.

"Italians ask for copies of Raphaels," he said. "In the Netherlands, they like Rembrandt, and in England, they like hunting and countryside paintings."

Simon Hui, who has 250 artists painting for a company bearing his name, added: "In England, they don't have any majestic mountains, so we can't sell mountains there."

Europeans are biggest buyers of the paintings, which retail for up to \$1,300 each.

Cheaper commercial artwork, often local landscapes or still-life florals with a touch of the surreal, can be custom-painted in two hours from postcards or photographs.

Painted

Artists for Simon Hui once painted 500 portraits from a photograph of a Middle Eastern personality.

"He wanted to hang all the paintings in his offices," Hui said.

"Many Americans want paintings to go with their furniture," Hui said. "Last year, Americans didn't want yellows. We had to change all the yellows to beige."

Many artists prefer commercial art that does not duplicate masterpieces because of the time and effort required to copy a Mona Lisa brushstroke for brushstroke.

A good replica of the Mona Lisa can take a skilled artist 10 days. Even then, he makes less than the \$350 gallery price it would fetch in Hong Kong.

Artists, many of them immigrants from China, earn as little as 90 cents on a small painting. A talented artist, taking on five large canvases, can earn about \$35 a day, often working for several exporters at a time.

Some painters say they tire of copying masterpieces.

"But they must earn a living," said Yim Mau Kun, a 45-year-old China-born artist who teaches art.

"I tell my students to paint half the time for a boss and the other half for themselves."

Hou Hui Jia, Chu Ka Ming and Deng Yi Long, all of them Hong Kong artists who duplicate masterpieces, fear their real names might jar the western eye when affixed to familiar works.

Hou signs her landscape paintings "Burnett" while Chu is "John Cole" on his London street scenes and Deng Yi Long uses "S. Johann" on his Rembrandt copies.

Deng, a 23-year-old former art student from China who has painted 20 Renoirs so far this year, says he copies works of as many European masters as he can.

But Chu, 30, said he was more selective.

"You look at a Constable and you know exactly how to reproduce it. It's a bit too easy," he said.

"You look at a Monet and you gasp. There are so many colours, so many different shades."

Time takes its toll on America's most famous painting

Restoring Whistler's Mother

By Sarah Walden

IN THE United States, Whistler is seen as very much an American painter, and his "Mother" is thought to be far and away his greatest picture. But up until a year ago, you had to be an exceedingly determined American pilgrim to find Whistler's "Mother" at all.

Then it was hidden away in one of the attic rooms of the Louvre; now it is more prominently displayed in the new Musée d'Orsay. One of the

reasons not many people made the attempt was that it had become so over-familiar as a reproduction — on postage stamps, in cartoons, and in Marx Brothers jokes — that most people had forgotten that it still existed as a painting.

When I was asked to restore it before it crossed the river to the left bank, I was reminded only too forcibly, as restorers always are when they first confront an old picture, what a friable, mortal construction in paint and canvas it was.

Despite its familiarity as an

image, it is still Whistler's best painting. But for the restorer it is a technical minefield. The Louvre had been extremely prudent in its care, and any treatment had been very tentative. By modern standards it had also travelled little — only four times in the last 30 years — and when it went on a five-year loan to the Metropolitan in New York, an escort had literally monitored the very temperature the old lady breathed.

The problem was not just the layers of old varnish, though

they were trouble some enough: thick, brown and irregular, obscuring key points of light in the picture such as the bonnet, the handkerchief and the prints on the wall, and turning what should have been the deep blacks of the skirt and curtain into yellowy browns. There is no great technical problem about taking off decayed varnish: but it depends very much on what comes off with it, and what is underneath.

Impulsive

Whistler had started to paint his mother on impulse late one night, using the back of a half-completed canvas. He was attracted by the rough, unprepared surface, which promised to give him just the effect he was after at the time. On top of that he used paint so thin that it was like dye in places, and even this he had rubbed and fretted to get exactly the right tonal transitions. Such subtleties must have looked wonderful when fresh, but they were not made to last. The irony is that they were not appreciated by Victorian academicians at the time; and when there finally was an audience for them, they were no longer there to be enjoyed.

Whistler's most carefully-calculated effects didn't even last during his lifetime, and he made things worse by "oiling out" the colours to revive them when he saw that they were in danger of sinking: simply feeding the canvas with oil to bring them back to life. In its early years the French who, unlike the British and the Americans themselves, had the sense to buy it from the artist, felt that the unfashionably flat surface needed a richer varnish, partly to disguise its increasingly visible problems, and perhaps to make it look more "European".

The "Mother" is a perfect example of how hard it can be to restore an old painting — and this one is quite young — to look as it did when it left the easel.



Despite modern techniques of restoration, it is impossible to recapture the original condition of Whistler's portrait.

US taxes hit American art collectors

By Daniel Grant

NEW YORK: When the final gavel sounded the close of bidding for Van Gogh's "Irises" painting on Nov 11, 1987 the record-breaking price of \$53.9 million exceeded the predictions of almost everyone in the art world. In part, the price was the result of Reagan administration tax policies. Recent changes in the tax laws have had a significant, though indirect, effect on the arts, which the "Irises" sale has made evident.

John Whitney Payson, the New York collector who put the Van Gogh painting up for sale, had originally planned to donate the work to Westbrook College in Portland, Maine. He found, however, that disincentives in the 1986 Tax Reform Act — specifically the "alternative minimum tax" — compelled him to sell the work instead.

The alternative minimum tax, which equals 21 per cent, was established to ensure that no one with a substantial income could claim so many deductions as to pay no taxes at all. The tax applies to various

areas classified as tax preference items, including charitable gifts of objects, and the benefit of a donation is now based only on the piece's original value when it was purchased and not on its appreciated value.

Choice

Mr Payson had the choice of donating the work, bought by his mother for \$10,000, and deducting only \$12,100, or selling it.

The painting was reportedly purchased by an Australian collector, and this sale was but the most recent — if most extraordinary, because of the price — indication that foreign buyers, especially the Japanese and Germans, are buying heavily in the American art market.

Part of this interest is due to the falling value of the United States dollar against other currencies. Over the past year the dollar has declined almost 45 per cent against the German mark and the Japanese yen, as well as 30 per cent against the British pound, according to James Koppel, a commodities trader at Deal International in New York. This has helped spur American exports, Koppel says, but it has also turned

many pieces of art in American collections into bargains for foreign buyers.

"With a lot of commodities, we've been seeing a lot of things going abroad," he observed. "These are the lowest prices many foreign buyers have seen (in their currencies) for decades. Fifty-three million dollars sounds like a lot more money to us than it does to the Japanese. For them, it means what, say, \$28 million meant to us last year."

Gilbert Edelson, administrative vice-president of the Art Dealers Association, stated that the Payson sale and others like it "are not a welcome development, in that American collectors and American museums are disadvantaged when it comes to obtaining art treasures. We're going to lose them, and for what?"

"The dollar can go far lower, and probably will, but it won't help our economy one bit. Neither the Japanese nor the Germans will buy American goods, even though they are cheaper, and it's because American manufacturers don't have the reputation for making high quality, long-lasting

products. On the domestic side, the Reagan administration has also affected the arts adversely in an indirect manner. Although the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts has not been cut in the past seven years, federal cuts in health and human service funding have resulted in a leveling off — or, in some cases, a reduction — of corporate support for the arts, because many companies have shifted some of their giving toward the social services to make up for the difference.

Douglas Davis, executive director of the Oregon Business Committee for the Arts, noted that "you have to feed people, take care of the homeless, before you give to the arts."

"A lot of corporations have been telling me that they feel increased pressure to help those who have been hurt by the Reagan budget cuts," says Larry TerMolen, development director at the Art Institute of Chicago. "I applaud them for it, though it makes my job harder."

1988, The Christian Science Monitor.



A young visitor to the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Unique collection of folk art from 100 countries

Art from life's back alleys

By Hattie Clark

SANTA FE, N.M.: It's like walking inside a kaleidoscope: the colours dazzle. And with every turn, you see something different.

To take in the sum total, you need to go back — and again, and maybe again — to this Girard Wing of the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe. It houses the piece de resistance of the 106,000 pieces of folk art donated by architect-designer Alexander Girard and his wife, Susan.

Mr Girard masterminded the mounting of the exhibition, too, deftly packaging a whole world into a single gallery. The folk art, collected over a 40-year period, comes from more than 100 countries. From angels to zebras, the items were crafted by everyday people from Alaska to Zaire. The artisans created with clay, cloth, wood, and wax; tissue paper and tin. Mirrors, feathers, yarn, squash seeds, and shells. Even sugar bread.

For many who live in life's back alleys, folk art serves as a second language, a way of telling everyday tales. It's an expression more permanent than patois. It's a way to somewhat over squalor.

There aren't any Rodins or Rembrandts in the lot. Folk artists are without formal art training and this sometimes shows in figures that lack proper proportions — ears too big or torsos too short. And pictures may be without perspective, not by plan but by happenstance. Never mind, though, because the art speaks from the heart. Girard recognised this decades ago, long before it was chic to collect art from folk.

Simple people work unconsciously," he says. "They're not hampered by tons of education that makes them say, 'Is this the right way to create?'"

Dapper in his casual dark suit and ascot, Girard reminisces and relaxes in a Charles Eames chair at his Santa Fe home. Impeccably placed about him are favourite folk art pieces. He views folk art as decidedly "unifying. It shows," he says, "that all people, in one

sense are equal, because they all do the same things in private and public — they're born, they grow, they live, they die. Folk artists everywhere focus on these rites of passage, unwittingly pulling diverse cultures together onto a common ground.

Variety

In the Girard wing, some items are big, some small. Some antique, some not-so-old. And colours are seldom subtle, so the entire gallery takes on the flamboyance of flamingos in poppy fields.

Despite the endless variety of items, there's no sense of 5-and-10 clutter. Girard saw to that through his floor plan and exhibit designs. He didn't sort items laundry-style, heaping all the horses into one display, with the talismans here, the baskets there, and the dolls lined up along a wall. Instead, he mixed and matched figures, furniture, flora, and fauna from all the different countries, shaping them into theatrical settings.

If you squint your eyes and shut out the sounds, it's easy to fantasize yourself right into the scenes. You can march in a Chinese parade, attend a christening, sup at a dolls' dinner, and scream at a bullfight. You can hawk wares in a Peruvian village, sail down a stream of crinkly glass, or grovel with the devils of the deep.

The exhibition, which opened to the public in late 1982, took more than two years to mount, with Girard at the helm, assisted by a host of museum aides and volunteers. At the outset, logical questions came from the crew. The blueprints? The model? None. "Design grows by doing," says Girard. And that's the way he did it.

Back then he stood in the gallery — empty as a grade school gym on holidays. Bigger than a barn, too. He remembers placing a clay cathedral somewhere in the void, at the approximate axis of the entrance and exit aisles. Then he added mini people, carts, buggies "grew" this way, each on the depth and dimensions of reality.

The folk art goodies were

packed in no fewer than 4,000 crates and boxes. Once emptied, the boxes served as mock-ups for platforms. Girard stacked and arranged them until shape, size, and height were just right. Then summoned a carpenter to duplicate his "stage." He used sand to create continuity, hiding bases and pedestals, a trick that makes static figures seem like people.

Understandably, not every folk art piece winds up in a scene, although this is the tendency. You'll also see single items and series — antique lanterns from Bangladesh (embroidered quilts made of salvaged cloth); yantras and mandalas from India (geometric diagrams used in meditation); esclavinas from Peru (dance capes); wycinanki from Poland (intricate paper cutouts); dury from Russia (19th-century wooden carvings of aristocracy). There's a yule tree, too, all glitz and glitter, with an American flag on top.

Girard was born in Boston but grew up in Florence, Italy, where he became captivated by the varying creches, a possible spark for his later love of folk art. But it wasn't until the early 30's that he consciously collected his first piece of folk art: a ceramic horse from Mexico that he found in Greenwich village.

A registered architect in New York, Michigan, Connecticut, and New Mexico, Girard became designer-director of the textile division of Herman Miller Inc., Zeeland, Mich., in 1952. After moving to Santa Fe in the 70s, he continued as consultant to the firm.

He's aware that his collection has its detractors who carp about artistic quality. But the fact that "folk art" has never been pinned to a precise definition helps stir this controversy. Just who are the "folk"? And what is art?

Girard doesn't get embroiled in the issue. "I just collect because I enjoy the differences in any given category, the subtle differences that reflect the people," he says. And for him, that's purpose plenty.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Impressionists at bargain prices

By Barbara Bright

PARIS, (Reuters): A few years ago Daniel Delamare was a frustrated art lover making Mickey Mouse T-shirts.

Now from his gallery on Paris' exclusive avenue Matignon he peddles one-off copies of French impressionist masterpieces by present-day painters at knockdown prices.

Delamare has hit on a potentially lucrative market at the opportune moment.

Vincent Van Gogh's "Irises" recently brought the highest price ever paid at auction for a painting — \$53.9 million. Other impressionist works bring similarly stratospheric sums — a Edouard Manet street scene, for example, realised 11.1 million dollars at auction.

The copies Delamare sells of paintings by Van Gogh, Manet, Paul August Renoir, Camille Pissarro, Paul Gauguin and Edgar Degas are priced from 32,000 to 82,000 francs (\$5,800 to \$14,900).

To the untutored eye, or unless one sees the back of the canvas bearing the stamp Daniel Delamare copy, the paint-

ings could be originals.

"You can have the same emotion, the same sensitivity, with a well-done copy," Delamare said in a recent interview. "It's really necessary to put \$50 million into a painting."

Carefully reproduced even down to the artist's signature, the pictures vary only slightly in size from the originals, and Delamare says they're perfectly legal.

Nearly 30 — copies of paintings by Degas, Pissarro, Gustave Klimt, Manet, Amedeo Modigliani and others — from the original collection of 60 have already been sold. New orders have been placed for an additional 30, including copies of some 17th century Flemish works.

But Delamare will not release buyers' names without their permission.

Nor will he and his partner, ex-consultant to the Belgian culture ministry Daniele Van Santen, say who the real artists are, although they say some show their own paintings at well known European galleries.

The anonymous copyists, Van Santen explained, study the original painting, the art-

ist's technique, his medium, his state of mind at the time he did the painting. Then they execute the copy, often within the same time as did the original artist, trying to capture his spontaneity.

Delamare's reproductions are certified by two documents, one signed by Delamare saying the painting is a one-off article, another signed by the buyer saying he knows it.

His copies are of marginally less well-known subjects than Van Gogh's "Irises" or his "Sunflowers." Delamare is offering for sale copies of "Les Oliviers" (Ciel Bleu) by Van Gogh, for example, and "La Lecture De L'illustré" by Manet.

Most are copies of paintings that are in museums where they can be viewed by the public. But it is to the art lover who wants the joy of possession that Delamare appeals.

Unless you can afford to go around the world, you can only look in a book. And even if you have lots of money (what you want) may not be on the market," Delamare said.

Only Sabine Servan-Schreiber, wife of French writer Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, has

come forward to say she has bought one of the Delamare works.

"It wasn't very big, or very expensive," she said of the copy of Degas' painting "Chevaux De Course A Longchamp" that now hangs among her collection of horse paintings.

"I'll never have a real Degas, but it was an indispensable piece and now my collection is coherent."

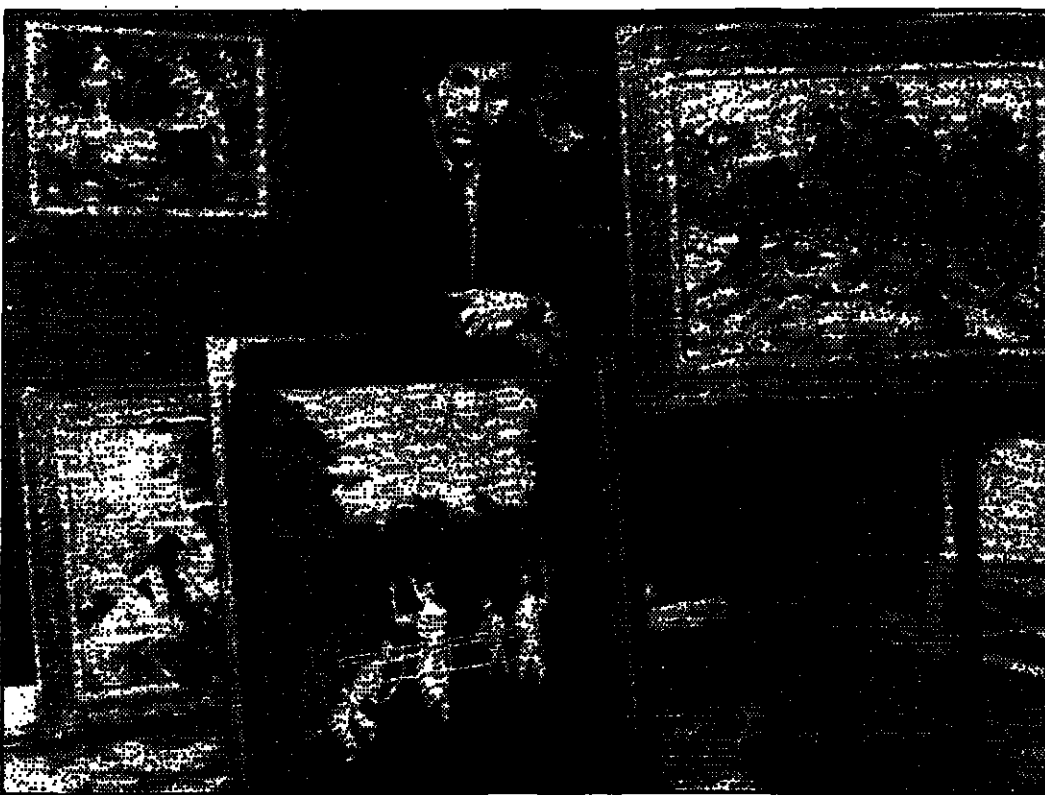
French art historian and member of the Academie Française Maurice Rheims described the paintings as "not badly done."

"The Van Goghs were good and the Klimts very good," he said. "I had to get up close to tell they were copies."

Copying master works, Delamare and Van Santen explain, was an honourable part of an artist's education until slightly more than a century ago.

In a press kit extolling the virtues of copying, Delamare cites Rheims' explanation, from his book "For The Love Of Art", that the metier lost respectability because art merchants and the bourgeoisie elevated the value of originals.

Before he entered the



Daniel Delamare, owner of an art gallery on Avenue Matignon in Paris, leans on a Duanier reproduction which sells for 60,000 francs (\$10,000). Delamare's gallery offers copies of paintings by Van Gogh, Renoir, Modigliani with prices ranging from 32,000 to 82,000 francs for people who cannot buy originals.

rarefied gallery world, Delamare was a successful textile manufacturer but also an art lover. Now he doesn't think

he would buy originals even if he made enough money to do so. "There's one thing for sure," he says. "There are many more people who love art than the people who have the money to buy it."

BUSINESS & FINANCE

AFS achieves its target on third year of operations

ARAB Financial Services Chairman, Abdullah A. Saudi, has announced that the financial results of the company in 1987 resulted in a profit. Assets rose to \$141.7 million, up from \$95.6 million in 1986, a rise of 48 per cent.

"Although the net profit was modest," said Abdullah Saudi, "the stated objective of the company was to move into profit in the third year of operation."

"It is particularly significant, we believe, as the result was achieved despite the heavy initial capital investment an organisation such as AFS requires, and the difficult economic environment in the region."

"At the same time, AFS established itself as the largest supplier of travellers cheques in the Arab world during 1987."

Expenses
"Expenses were under control and the figures in certain areas exceeded our expectations, underlining the strength and sophistication of AFS operations."

"We are delighted with what has been a very good performance by the company," said Saudi, who was speaking after the conclusion of an AFS board meeting held in Bahrain.

AFS began operations with the launch of a dollar travellers cheque in December 1984. A sterling cheque was issued soon after.

Sale
The company has diversified with the sale of technology-related products and services as well as other payments instruments such as the AFS Premier VISA Card introduced last October.

AFS major activity was in the sale of travellers cheques which totalled to \$625 million in 1987, a rise of 28 per cent from \$488 million in 1986 and a 100 per cent increase from first year sales of \$314 million in 1985. Total Arab market sales are estimated at \$2 billion, which gives AFS a 30 per cent share.

Contribution to earnings was made by the sale of technology-based services and systems, including major software systems to Banks in New Zealand, Europe and the United States.

AFS also carried out a number of consultancy projects for Arab and other institutions which brought in fee revenue.

OECD steel production expected to fall

PARIS, Jan 31, (AP): Total production of crude steel in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is expected to fall by at least 2 per cent this year following a 2.5 per cent rise in 1987, according to estimates released yesterday.

OECD's steel committee, which monitors steel industry trends, based its projection on the likelihood that demand will decline by 2 per cent after last year's somewhat unexpected strengthening in most of the non-communist industrialised world.

Steel consumption rose by 2 to 3 per cent last year from 348.3 million tons in 1986, OECD said.

Most of the increase was in the United States and Japan, but demand also was substantially higher in Turkey and Australia. However, the report noted that in most OECD countries, demand was lower than in 1986.

Demand
The committee said the lower demand for steel in 1988 will reflect the expected slowdown in economic growth. Consumer and capital spending may shrink following last October's stock market crash, the report said.

US steel consumption may fall by as much as 4 per cent this year after a 4.5 per cent rise in 1987 to 103.9 million tons. The report predicted a decline in demand for steel from US car-makers and American non-residential construction companies.

Steel demand in the European Economic Community, Canada and Japan in 1988 was not expected to decline by more than 2 per cent, the report said.

IDA loan for Bangladesh

DHAKA, Jan 31, (Reuters): The International Development Association (IDA) will lend Bangladesh \$81.5 million to finance the country's flood protection projects, Bangladesh television said today.

It said the IDA, an affiliate of the World Bank, would provide the money this year. The money is also aimed at helping Bangladesh implement irrigation and drainage.

Abu Dhabi sticks to official prices

Gulf output cuts deter oil market crash

BAHRAIN, Jan 31, (Reuters): Dramatic production cuts by Gulf oil states, coupled with resistance to widening discounts, prevented a crash of oil prices in January. Oil industry sources said.

But they said the danger of collapse had not yet vanished because consumers have built up huge inventories of crude.

"Opec (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) must pump less in the coming months to keep prices from falling even further," one oil trader warned this weekend.

The Gulf states slashed output by around 1.7 million barrels per day (bpd) in January from 12.2 million bpd in December.

Most are selling oil at lower than official prices because buyers refuse to pay more. But Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia are resisting further moves in this direction.

"When the Saudis refused to discount prices except to Aramco (The Arabian American Oil Company), spot prices did not fall as heavily as expected," a senior Middle East oil analyst said.

Despite a hard line on further discounting, Dubai oil for March delivery, the Middle East benchmark, was trading at \$15.40 a barrel on Friday, two dollars below its official price.

Incomes
Gulf oil producers, relying heavily on oil incomes, started to offer oil at market-related prices to their term-customers after buyers started to turn to the cheaper spot market.

Spot oil prices slumped after Opec oil ministers failed in December to address the problem of excessive production which resulted in a global oil glut in the second half of last year.

Oil industry sources said the

output cuts in January — voluntarily by Abu Dhabi, Iraq and Kuwait and forced on Iran and Saudi Arabia by slack sales — prevented a market crash.

Spot oil prices fell as low as \$8 a barrel in June 1986 due to unchecked output by Opec members.

Companies
Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has sold oil at market-related prices to at least six US companies to preserve its market share.

But when the kingdom rejected requests by its Japanese and European buyers to sell oil on discount, its output declined to around four million bpd in January compared with its 4.343 million bpd Opec quota.

Oil industry sources said four big US oil companies — Mobil, Exxon, Chevron and Texaco — that operate Saudi oilfields under Aramco were paying

market prices for their purchase of 1.3 bpd.

Also, at least two other US oil companies have purchased Saudi oil from Caribbean storage centres, oil traders said.

In an effort to maintain its output around its quota, Saudi Arabia chartered five supertankers in late January to carry its oil for storage somewhere in the West.

Abu Dhabi, biggest producers in the UAE is so far the only Gulf member of Opec sticking to official prices.

But buyers have shied away since they can get oil cheaper elsewhere.

Abu Dhabi's output, including a 400,000 bpd voluntary cut in January to support the market, has fallen to around 650,000 bpd, half its 1.3 million bpd output in December.

Kuwait was the latest victim of buyers pressing for market-

related prices, bowing to Japanese customers demanding a better deal.

But the country also cut output to around its Opec assigned quota level of 996,000 bpd in January from 1.3 million bpd in December, oil industry sources said.

Iran and Iraq are also discounting prices to customers, the sources said.

Iran's output is unchanged in January at around two million bpd compared with its quota of 2.369 million bpd.

Apart from the attraction to buyers of low spot market prices, Iran suffers from the reluctance of the Japanese to buy its oil because of a US ban on imports.

Iraq, which was excluded from Opec's quota system last December, has also reduced its output to around 2.3 million bpd from 2.6 million in December, to support Opec prices.

Slower growth would force Fed to strike an easy credit stance

US banks likely to cut prime rates

NEW YORK, Jan 31, (Reuters): Falling money market interest rates may soon lead to cuts in commercial banks' prime rates, a factor that helped lift spirits in the stock and bond markets this week.

But economists said it was unlikely that another wish of American investors — a cut in the Federal Reserve's discount rate — would come true anytime soon.

"Obviously, lower rates suggest an imminent prime rate drop," said a senior economist at a major money centre bank.

"But the prime rate is the last and slowest rate to drop, not the first," he added. "It's a lagging indicator of policy. It doesn't say anything about what the Fed might do."

Gain
The Dow Jones industrial average rose 28.18 points to close at 1,958.22 Friday, making its gain for the week 54.17 points, as the market shrugged off recent pessimism and recouped the previous week's 52-point loss. The hopes that interest rates are

headed lower set the stage for a run to the 2,000 mark.

"The market was driven by lower interest rates and the idea that inflation is under control," said Peter Dapuzzo, head of retail equity trading at Shearson Lehman Brothers.

Bonds rallied for the third straight day on Friday, ending the week at the best level since late June. Bond yields, which go down as prices go up, have been retreating steadily from 9 per cent at mid-month to 8.42 per cent at Friday's close.

The activity in the bond market led many to predict that the major bank's prime lending rate, which is at the 8.75 per cent level where it has stood since November 2, will fall. It was as low as 7.5 per cent in early 1987.

The prime rate is the interest rate paid by the best commercial customers of the major banks, and is viewed as a key indicator of the direction of interest rates in general.

The optimism about interest rates ironically stems from bad news that the latest report on the

US gross national product showed an expected buildup of inventories, which would create drag on the economy.

But the slower growth would force the Federal Reserve to strike an easy credit stance, lower credit demands and dampen inflation, easing credit rates. An unexpectedly strong 4.2 per cent gain in the gross national product (GNP) was virtually ignored because it was achieved through the higher inventories.

Weak
But with the economy weak, the Fed will have to be gentle in easing credit or it could shove the dollar into another tailspin.

"The market has been gaining on expectations of easier policy, but the Fed is not going to be a part of this," argued one trader.

Still, economists said it was likely that credit market rates have fallen enough for at least a prime rate decline.

"The arithmetic argues for a prime rate cut right now. It's a question of who goes first," said an economist at a large money centre bank.

Bidders line up for Montgomery Ward

NEW YORK, Jan 31, (Reuters): General Electric Company (GE) and Shearson Lehman Hutton are among about a half dozen potential bidders for the Montgomery Ward retail chain, sources familiar with the negotiations said today.

Montgomery Ward chairman Bernard Brennan seems to favour a leveraged buy-out of the company with GE, the sources said.

The New York Times reported yesterday that Brennan was a long-time friend of GE chairman John Welch and that GE became interested after Brennan asked Welch for his reaction to a leveraged buy-out plan.

Daniel Good, a managing director of Shearson, said his firm was interested in a leveraged buy-out of Montgomery Ward and would like to retain Brennan, who is credited with reversing the decline of the Chicago-based department store chain, which has a book value of \$1.5 billion.

Yeutter warns agriculture subsidies could rise

GENEVA, Jan 31, (AP): US Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter warned today that US and European agricultural subsidies would "rise dramatically" if the current round of international trade negotiations fail to agree to curb such supports.

"Failure to succeed in disciplining agriculture subsidies on a global basis will result in increased confrontation on the international trade scene," Yeutter told a news conference.

He estimated that the cost of European Economic Community agricultural programmes is \$100 billion, including additional consumer costs resulting from the programmes, while the comparable US programme costs are \$20 to \$30 billion.

"In the absence of success in the Uruguay round (of trade negotiations) those numbers will rise dramatically," he said.

Agriculture is the subject of one of the 15 negotiating groups which make up the multilateral trade talks taking place under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The round, which began a year ago, is called the Uruguay round

because it was launched by a meeting of trade ministers in Punta Del Este, Uruguay.

Yeutter said progress during the first year of talks had "exceeded expectations."

But he cautioned that "the hard part is yet to come," as countries start negotiations after detailing their opening positions.

Yeutter said the question of liberalising trade in agriculture "will probably be the most troublesome overall."

Yeutter also said the question of liberalising trade in services such as insurance and banking would be troublesome, but that some progress had been made.

Talks

He said the negative attitudes of some developing countries about including services in the negotiations had "changed dramatically" during the first year of talks.

"A great deal of that concern has dissipated," Yeutter said.

At the Punta Del Este meeting, Third World countries led by Brazil and India opposed including services in the trade liberalisation talks. They argued that their fledgling services industries

would be no match for those of the developed countries.

It was eventually agreed that talks on services would be held parallel to those on liberalising trade in goods.

Yeutter said a number of developing countries have realised that they have a comparative advantage in some services, so that it would be in their interest to negotiate. They have also realised that negotiations in services were an "essential part" of the Uruguay round trade-offs," he said.

On another topic, Yeutter said the United States is "not pleased with the high level of protectionism that still exists in (South) Korea and Taiwan and other Asian countries which have benefited from the international trade system."

"As they grow, they must open their markets as they ask other countries to open theirs," he said.

Yeutter was in Geneva accompanying members of a private sector presidential advisory committee on trade negotiations who held two days of meetings with US and other trade negotiators on the status of the talks.

UK account deficit worst since 1974

LONDON, Jan 31, (UPI): Britain's balance of payments deficit last year was the worst since 1974, before the benefits of North Sea oil began to come through, figures from the Treasury showed this week.

Imports exceeded exports by £1.182 billion (\$2.1276 billion) in December.

Even after an estimated surplus £600 million (\$1.080 billion) on services and dividends, there was a deficit of £582 million (\$1.0476 billion) in the current account, only a marginal improvement on the £595 million (\$1.071 billion) shortfall in November.

Impact

Bad figures in both the last two months of 1987 sent the deficit in goods alone shooting up to £9.8 billion (\$17.64 billion), and in spite of a £7 billion (\$12.6 billion) surplus on invisibles, the current account deficit totalled £2.692 billion (\$4.8456 billion), compared with a deficit of £944 million (\$1.7892 billion) in 1986.

The December figures made little impact on share prices, though they were right at the top end of financial analysts' predictions and the deficit for the year is significantly worse than the £2.5 billion (\$4.5 billion) deficit forecast by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson at the time of the budget last March, and repeated in the autumn economic statement in November.

Britain's cinemas could be heading for a dramatic recovery following some years of gloom after taking a hiding from the booming video industry, according to figures out this week from the Rank organisation.

Rank, one of the biggest and most wide-ranging leisure empires in Britain, said cinema attendances were up by a mighty 10 per cent last year.

And Rank chief executive Michael Gifford said that another 20 screens will be added to the 100 already operated by the group's Odeon chain.

This will include four more at

the famous Leicester Square Odeon in London, where Paul Hogan's Crocodile Dundee made its spectacular debut in Britain last year.

The Australian comedian, together with Bond newcomer Timothy Dalton in the leaving daylight, were the most successful box office successes of the year.

But it was not only these two films that took the credit. According to analysts at some stockbrokers, family film entertainment in general is making a big comeback.

Profits

Rank's Butlin's Holiday Camp figures were well up last year. And the group's copying business brought in well over half of their £208 million (\$374.4 million) profits up by 27 per cent on last year's £164 million (\$295.2 million).

Also, there is Pinewood film studios — where the 16th Bond film is being made — and a growing television operation.

World Business Summary

Chamber chief praises UAE-Japanese trade ties

ABU DHABI, Jan 31, (Kuna): A leading Abu Dhabi chamber official today hailed the flourishing trade and economic ties between the UAE and Japan especially in the oil field. Saad Bin Ahmed Al Otaibi, president of Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and chairman of the UAE Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry made the remarks during official talks here between officials at Abu Dhabi chamber and the visiting Japanese delegation led by Yasutoshi Morasa, general manager of Abu Dhabi Oil Company Limited-Japan (Adoc).

Otaibi also said that the UAE considers Japan as one of its leading trade partners as it tops the list of UAE's largest ten trade partners. Commending the qualities of Japanese industrial products compared to those from other industrialised countries, Otaibi said that Japanese technological products are receiving lucrative markets in the UAE. He also said that the UAE-Japanese trade cooperation took great stride in the right direction, indicating that Japan has effectively contributed in infrastructural projects implemented or under construction in the country. The chamber president warned the increasing of the yen value might have adverse effects on the volume of UAE imports from Japan as the UAE markets were open to international competition.

Otaibi also called for establishing joint ventures in free trade zones in the emirates, affirming that the Japanese cultural week currently underway here would be a good opportunity for boosting the existing friendship and understanding between the two countries.

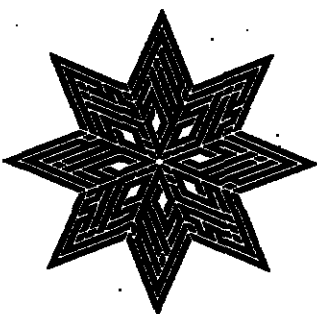
Through this cooperation and understanding, he said that Japan would support Arab causes at international gatherings. Morasa, the head of the Japanese delegation hailed the UAE-Japanese cooperation in various fields.

Brazil debt talks revived

NEW YORK, Jan 31, (Reuters): Talks between Brazil, the Third World's largest debtor, and its creditor banks have quickened pace after intervention by Washington, but the chances of a swift medium-term agreement remain uncertain, bankers say.

They said the US Treasury has bluntly told Brazil that it stepped in last November to speed an interim financing with banks on the clear understanding that Brazil would become current on interest owed to commercial banks from January 1. That has not happened so far, obstructing progress toward a medium-term financing deal, the bankers said.

The country owes banks, foreign creditors and international agencies \$113 billion, of which about \$25 billion is owed to US banks. A Brazil finance official told Reuters last week that Brazil was ready to pay \$240 million toward January interest. Since the Treasury's message this week, the tone of negotiations has further improved, bankers said. But disagreements persist over several ingredients of the medium-term deal, including the amount of new money that Brazil is requesting. Brazil has come back a little chastened. But there's still pretty huge numbers (for the new money) going around. To buy a medium-term package based on what's on the table now, the banks would have to fold completely, said one banker. Under the \$4.5-billion interim deal, Brazil and banks had targeted January 15 for agreeing on the medium-term new money and restructuring package. January 30 was the next goal.



The Commercial Bank of Kuwait announces the opening of the following branches from 4-6 p.m. Saturdays to Wednesdays Starting today Feb. 1st

Abdulla Mubarak Street	2438190
Hawalli	2619501
Salmiya	5715989
Fahaheel	3923779
Jahra	4771777
Shuwaikh Vegetable Market	4817859
Farwaniya	4715862
Khaitan	4710571

Commercial Bank البنك التجاري

CURRENCY & BUSINESS

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1988

UK trade team visits Kuwait

Bid to boost economic ties

By Jadranka Porter

A BRITISH trade mission currently visiting Kuwait is seeking to promote trade between Britain and Kuwait despite the adverse local market conditions.

Representatives of 15 companies from the northwest of England, sponsored by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce are on the first leg of a Gulf tour which will also take them to Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar and Oman.

Britain has slipped to the fourth place on the list of Kuwait's major trading partners and missions as these are expected to help Britain retain that place in the face of stiff competition from the US, Japan and West Germany.

Products

The businessmen have a wide range of products on offer including oil industry equipment, textiles, insulation products, pipes, fire fighting equipment and engineering plastics.

Half of the delegation mem-



Mike Rigby (right) talks with British Ambassador, Peter Hinchcliffe at a reception hosted by Britain's commercial counsellor in Kuwait.

bers are newcomers to the Gulf market and their products include explosion proof electrical equipment, new floodlighting system, tissue converting machinery and tools for high pressure pipelines.

Some of these businessmen are looking for local agents. The mission organised on biennial basis

of the local market conditions than some of their Kuwaiti counterparts.

Kuwait's imports have fallen by about 30 per cent over the past two years.

Story
"From Europe's point of view the Gulf is still a strong market," said Mike Rigby, the delegation leader.

"What the Kuwaitis are doing now is sensible. It is called good housekeeping. We know what it's like, we also rely on oil income."

Rigby said many of the mission members will make several visits to the Gulf before the next trade mission tour in two years.

"The idea is to maintain contact. If we wait for foreign companies to contact us we would never get on a plane," said Stephen Welch, head of the international trade department of the Manchester Chamber.

The mission was well received by Kuwait's business community which has traditionally maintained close trade links with Britain.

Richard Lyng seeks markets, allies in Asia trip

WASHINGTON, Jan 31, (Reuters): US Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng arrives in Hong Kong late this evening in search of markets for US farm products and allies for the American stance in global trade talks.

Lyng will visit the members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) — Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines — through February 12.

At a press conference prior to departing Washington, Lyng said the Pacific rim was an increasingly important market for US agricultural products.

"Every one of these countries is vibrant in growth. There's a big population in a country like Indonesia with 170 million people and they have a favourable trade balance with the United States."

Customers

"They are good customers now in some of the agricultural products but they have the potential to be a whole lot better," he said.

In a recent Agriculture Department study predicting the 20 best markets for US farm products in the 1990s, four of the top five nations were in Asia: Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea.

In Singapore Lyng will meet Agriculture Department officials from US embassies throughout Asia to plot strategy for boosting American farm exports.

Lyng said his second goal in Southeast Asia was to enlist Asean support for the Reagan administration's drive to get an international agreement performing world agriculture.

Four of the five Asean countries he is visiting, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines — are members of a coalition of 13 countries seeking freer world farm trade.

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	1.020	1.030	1.030	1.020	615000	27
GULF BANK	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.380	540000	20
COMMERCIAL BK	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	580000	18
AHLI BANK	0.375	0.360	0.370	0.360	170000	8
B.K.N.E.S.	0.280	0.275	0.275	0.275	10000	1
K.R.E.S.	0.445	---	---	---	---	---
BURGAN BANK	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.270	150000	11
K.F.HOUSE	0.500	0.510	0.520	0.500	840000	29
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KMT INV. CO.	0.208	0.206	0.206	0.206	60000	3
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	---	---	---	---	---
K.T.I.C.	0.172	0.170	0.170	0.170	83700	3
COM.FACILITIES	0.430	---	---	---	---	---
AKLIAN INV.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
I.F.A.	0.116	0.118	0.118	0.116	540000	13
INV. PEARL KMT	0.108	0.106	0.106	0.106	600000	5
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KUT INSURANCE	0.740	---	---	---	---	---
GULF INSURANCE	0.370	---	---	---	---	---
AHLIA INS. CO.	0.570	---	---	---	---	---
WARBA INS. CO.	0.490	---	---	---	---	---
REAL ESTATE SECTOR						
K.R.E.S.T. CO.	0.280	0.275	0.275	0.275	300000	6
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.130	0.126	0.126	0.126	940000	20
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.234	0.236	0.236	0.236	40000	2
SALHAH R.E.	0.070	---	---	---	---	---
KMT PROJECTS	0.094	---	---	---	---	---
KMT R.E.I. CO.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
NAT IND. CO.	0.580	---	---	---	---	---
INV. M.P. IND.	0.275	0.270	0.270	0.270	40000	2
KUT CEMENT CO.	0.238	---	---	---	---	---
REF. IND. CO.	0.400	---	---	---	---	---
N.A.M.T. CO.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
GULF CABLE	1.030	1.020	1.020	1.020	20000	1
K.P.H. IND. CO.	0.170	---	---	---	---	---
COM. MARINE	0.350	---	---	---	---	---
K.SH.REP.CO.	0.046	---	---	---	---	---
SERVICES SECTOR						
OVERLAND TRANS	0.080	---	---	---	---	---
K.N.C. CO.	0.218	---	---	---	---	---
KMT HOTELS CO.	0.168	---	---	---	---	---
P. WAREHOUSES	0.174	0.172	0.172	0.172	20000	1
COM. WCT. CHPX.	0.020	0.019	0.019	0.019	160000	1
MOBILE TELE.	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.385	80000	5
KUT COMPUTER	0.186	---	---	---	---	---
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.255	0.250	0.250	0.250	48400	2
UNITO FISHERIES	0.142	0.138	0.138	0.138	37398	1
UNITO POULTRY	0.246	0.246	0.246	0.246	20000	1
KUT FOODS	0.300	---	---	---	---	---
AGRI. FOOD PRD.	0.150	---	---	---	---	---
NON-KUT SECTOR						
BHW. INTER. BK	0.073	---	---	---	---	---
BHW. N.EAST. BK	0.050	0.051	0.051	0.051	40000	1
UNITO. GULF BK	0.050	---	---	---	---	---
CONST. INVEST.	0.095	0.095	0.097	0.094	5060000	77
A.G. INV. CORP.	0.040	---	---	---	---	---
FIRST. GULF BK	0.870	---	---	---	---	---
B.K.T.G.	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	240000	2

THE GULF BANK

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Margab	
Tel: 2496066, 2447131	
8.30 to 12 noon, 4.30 to 7.30 pm	
Indian Rupees	21.086
Pakistan Rupees	15.795
Sri Lanka Rupees	8.896
Philippine Peso	12.010
US dollars	276.10
Sterling Pounds	488.00
Thru Money Market Fund	USD 13.98
The Islamic Fund	USD 13.98
Golden Investors	USD 13.98
Gold	120.00
Gold	120.00
Gold	120.00

Currency rates

FOLLOWING are international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

	Buying	Selling
US dir.	27459	27607
Sig.	48350	48950
D.M.	16270	16450
S.fr.	19960	20270
S. fr.	04825	04904
I. lira	0002210	0002239
J. yen	002133	0021670
B. dinar	72770	73290
UAE dir.	07470	07521
S. riyal	073160	073650
Q. riyal	075330	075910
O. riyal	71280	71750

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	4-9/16	5-1/16
3 months	4-5/8	5-1/16
6 months	4-11/16	5-1/8
1 year	5-1/16	5-9/16

AMMAN

AL. HINNE MINERALS	OPNS	CLSS
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.79	0.79
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.89	0.89
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.34	1.34
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.96	1.96
AL. HINNE MINERALS	122.5	122.5
AL. HINNE MINERALS	4.79	4.80
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.47	1.48
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.01	1.00
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.95	0.95
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.53	0.58
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.05	2.10
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.30	0.30
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.06	2.07
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.76	0.75
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.65	1.65
AL. HINNE MINERALS	16.00	16.25
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.00	0.99
AL. HINNE MINERALS	27.25	27.50
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.41	0.41
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.36	1.36
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.46	0.46
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.63	0.63
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.66	0.65
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.39	2.63
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.30	1.28
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.55	1.50
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.15	1.20
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.77	0.77
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.27	1.28
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.35	1.35
AL. HINNE MINERALS	---	---
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.48	1.47
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.64	0.64
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.96	0.96
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.64	0.64
AL. HINNE MINERALS	3.50	3.50
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.34	1.28
AL. HINNE MINERALS	13.20	13.20
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.00	1.01
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.05	1.06
AL. HINNE MINERALS	25.0125	0.5
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.46	1.46
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.19	1.23
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.10	1.08
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.50	2.50
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.45	1.47
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.23	1.22
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.23	0.24
AL. HINNE MINERALS	---	---
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.43	2.42
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.90	2.91
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.50	2.50
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.15	1.14
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.11	2.15
AL. HINNE MINERALS	3.00	3.00
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.68	0.68
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.91	0.91
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.17	0.17
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.17	1.17
AL. HINNE MINERALS	4.90	5.40
AL. HINNE MINERALS	7.08	7.07
AL. HINNE MINERALS	6.49	6.30
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.91	1.92
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.00	1.00
AL. HINNE MINERALS	3.65	3.65
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.99	1.00
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.21	1.14
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.92	0.92
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.35	0.32
AL. HINNE MINERALS	13.85	13.90
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.68	1.60
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.90	1.90
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.73	0.71
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.69	0.73
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.60	0.40
AL. HINNE MINERALS	60.00	60.00
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.60	0.60
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.51	1.52
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.97	0.97
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.20	1.20
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.50	0.50
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.78	0.78
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.72	2.73
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.80	0.81
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.25	0.28
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.06	2.10
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.61	0.61
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.50	0.50
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.69	0.72
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.80	0.80
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.43	0.42
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.96	0.95
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.60	1.58
AL. HINNE MINERALS	2.50	2.50
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.79	1.77
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.72	0.74
AL. HINNE MINERALS	0.73	0.70
AL. HINNE MINERALS	1.10	1.10

Interest rates are headed lower

Conflicting signals baffle market

NEW YORK, Jan 31, (AP): Like a leaf floating down a river, the stock market these days moves as if it knows where it is going, riding every swirling current — until some branch or rock stops it cold.

Still quivering three months after Black Monday, Wall Street remains confused by conflicting signals about the direction of the economy and uncertain whether the next big turn for stocks is up or down.

Lately, it has been hooking a ride on every passing fancy — from takeover stocks, to dividend-related issues, to the latest prediction on interest rates.

Bursts
This past week, stocks showed some tantalizing bursts of enthusiasm in response to a rally in the bond market. But just then things were starting to look interesting, the excitement faded — muffled by a squall of computerized programme selling or by mere indifference, analysts said.

On Friday, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 28.18 points to 1938.22, marking a 54.71-point gain for the

week. The New York Stock Exchange Composite Index rose 1.91 to 144.13, a 5.44-point gain over the week, the American Stock Exchange market value index rose 1.97 to 269.10, a 3.48-point weekly gain, and the Nasdaq Composite Index for the over-the-counter market stood at 344.66, up 2.30 from Thursday and 7.07 for the week.

Volume

Volume on the Big Board averaged 193.66 million shares a day over the week, against 155.09 million the week before.

"What's holding the market together is the hope that we've seen the worst since the big decline of October," said Frank Cappiello, head of the McCullough, Andrews and Cappiello Inc. securities firm in Baltimore.

"But there's a lot of fear out there," he added. But there's hope, too. Last week's report that the nation's Gross National Product rose 4.2 per cent in the fourth quarter sent bond prices soaring and interest rates to their lowest levels in months.

The reason: a surge in inventories that was mainly responsible for the GNP gain. The bulge gave bond-market bulls cause to believe the Federal Reserve would let interest rates continue to fall.

Stock-market bulls also relished the prospect of lower rates, since this would help businesses grow, creating greater potential for higher earnings, many analysts said.

But there was a bearish interpretation, too. Alfred E. Goldman, an analyst at the St. Louis securities firm of AG Edwards and Sons Inc., said the excitement over the GNP report reflected "a terrible amount of valid economic confusion."

Buildup

He said the heavy inventory buildup "creates a dangerous pre-recessionary condition" because business activity could slow as retailers cut inventories and consumers retrench.

Goldman, calling himself a bear on stocks right now, said the week's upward move "lacked conviction" and was "not very impressive."

view, noting for example that volume on two of the biggest trading days was dominated by issues related to dividend payout strategies.

A few big takeover offers — such as Campeau Corp's \$4.2 billion bid for Federated Department Stores Inc. and Black and Decker Corp's \$1.8 billion offer for American Standard Inc. — also stirred the marketplace.

Such activity "does add to a positive belief that there is undervaluation of some issues in the market," said Gene Jay Seagle, an analyst at the Gruntal and Co. securities firm.

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HAWALLI, near the Andalus cinema, one room for a bachelor to share with a Goan family. Tele. Francis, 4747096/4734467/39. (AT2-40771-3)

SALMIYA, behind Mercedes Showroom. One room in a 2 bedroom flat partly furnished with kitchen facilities for 2 bachelors/ladies or a couple. Tele. 5726275. (AT3-40790-2)

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REQUIRED for a lady from Sharq to Adailiya Clinic and back. Time 6.45 am - 1 pm. Tele. Mathews, 2439471 ext. 225, 8 am - 12 noon, 2442930 res, after 1 pm. (AT3-40789-3)

REQUIRED from Shuwaikh to Abbasiya, near Gulf Supermarket for a lady at 7 pm (one way). Tele. 4813566 ext. 287, 11 am - 7 pm. (AT3-MJ-3)

REQUIRED from Abu Halifa to Ahmadi and back, 7 am and 3 pm. Tele. Ms Desouza, 3984465/6. (AT2-40769-2)

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عرب ٹائمز

مشرق وسطیٰ میں شائع ہونے والا پہلا اردو اخبار

پیر ۱۶ فروری ۱۹۸۸ء ۱۳ جمادی الثانی ۱۴۰۸ء پیر ۱۶ فروری ۱۹۸۸ء

خلیج میں نو گھنٹوں کے دوران دو جہازوں پر عراقی فضائیہ کے حملے

ایک جہاز میں آٹھ عراقی فوجی، دوسری جہاز میں ایک عراقی فوجی ہلاک ہوئے۔ عراقی فوجیوں نے کہا کہ ان کے جہازوں پر عراقی فضائیہ کے دو حملے ہوئے۔ ایک جہاز میں آٹھ عراقی فوجی ہلاک ہوئے۔ دوسری جہاز میں ایک عراقی فوجی ہلاک ہوئے۔

شام نے خلیجی علاقوں کی سرحدیں بند کر دیں

یمن اور ترکی کے درمیان تعلقات بہتر بنانے پر اتفاق ہو گیا

سوفیہ میں یمن اور ترکی کے درمیان تعلقات بہتر بنانے پر اتفاق ہو گیا۔ یمن اور ترکی کے درمیان تعلقات بہتر بنانے پر اتفاق ہو گیا۔

ترکی یمن میں باغیوں کے خلاف آپریشنوں کو دہرا دے گا

ترکی نے یمن میں باغیوں کے خلاف آپریشنوں کو دہرا دے گا۔ ترکی نے یمن میں باغیوں کے خلاف آپریشنوں کو دہرا دے گا۔

ایران میں برطانوی باشندے کو سزائے موت کا حکم

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تیس سالہ خاتون پر فائرنگ ہوئی، زخمی ہو گئی

تیس سالہ خاتون پر فائرنگ ہوئی، زخمی ہو گئی۔ تیس سالہ خاتون پر فائرنگ ہوئی، زخمی ہو گئی۔

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Tunisia qualify for Seoul Olympics

RABAT, Jan 31, (Reuters): Tunisia scored a last-minute goal against Morocco yesterday to snatch a place in the Olympic soccer tournament in Seoul.

The goal by Tariq Dhiab gave the Tunisians a 2-2 draw in the African zone third round second leg match and a 3-2 aggregate victory following their 1-0 win in Tunis on January 17.

A crowd of 70,000 watched the match in which Morocco fell behind when Lotfi Al Rowiesi scored for the visitors in the 18th minute with a shot from 20 metres.

Seven minutes later Abdelrazzak Khairi scored for Morocco when the ball slipped from the hands of Tunisian goalkeeper Mohammed Nasser Shoshan and Krimaou gave the home team the lead in the 30th minute.

In the second half, over-confidence crept in to the Moroccan players and in the 90th minute they were stunned by Tariq Dhiab's goal.

Tunisia will be the only Arab country representing Africa at the Olympics after neighbours Algeria lost 2-0 to Nigeria, to go out 2-1 on aggregate, in another qualifying match in Lagos yesterday.

Zambia won 2-1 on aggregate against Ghana. Zambia won the first leg 2-0 in Lusaka, Zambia a fortnight ago.

Martin wins Osaka women's marathon

OSAKA, Japan, Jan 31, (AP): Lisa Martin of Australia led all the way today and ran away with the '88 Osaka international women's marathon in a meet record time of 2 hours, 23 minutes, 51 seconds, far ahead of Japan's Misako Miyahara.

It was Martin's best time ever and the world's fourth best for women. Ireland's Carey may have set the old meet record of 2:28:07 in 1985.

Miyahara finished in 2:29:37, a Japan record, and became the first Japanese woman to run the 41.195-kilometre (26.21-mile) race in less than 2 hours, 30 minutes. The old Japan record of 2:30:30 was set by Akemi Masuda in 1983.

Kumi Araki overtook fellow Japanese Eriko Asai with 200 metres (660 feet) left and finished third in 2:31:40 in her second marathon race. Asai finished fourth in 2:32:13.

Martin, Asai and Miyahara led in the early stages but Martin pulled ahead of the two Japanese after 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) and easily won the race, run in 10 degree (50F) temperatures with no wind.

After 29 kilometres (18 miles), Asai and Miyahara were running shoulder to shoulder, but after 36 kilometres (22 miles), Miyahara pulled ahead.

Martin said, "I am so happy as I won the race with the world's fourth best time. At first, I planned to run at a low pace but many Japanese along the streets cheered me so I ran at a high pace. In the Seoul Olympics, I hope to win the gold medal."

Negotiators \$1 million apart

NEW YORK, Jan 31, (AP): The two sides are about \$1 million apart in negotiations for a Mike Tyson-Michael Spinks heavyweight title fight. Spinks' promoter and advisor, Butch Lewis, said yesterday.

"We're close," Lewis said. "Negotiations will go on into next week."

Lewis has been dealing with Shelley Finkel, a fight manager, who is a friend of Tyson's co-manager, Jim Jacobs and Bill Cayton.

Lewis walked out of a negotiating session with Cayton and Jacobs on Jan 23, the day after Tyson successfully defended his title by stopping former champion Larry Holmes.

At the time, Cayton said he told Lewis, "if you walk out, don't come back."

"We're going on with Mike Tyson's career," Jacobs said at the time. "Butch Lewis can go on with Michael Spinks' career."

Cayton said Lewis had turned down a minimum guarantee of \$10.8 million.

Lewis reportedly now is asking for a flat sum in excess of \$12 million with all percentages going to Tyson. The fight is expected to bring in \$30 million to \$35 million.

Both Tyson and Spinks are unbeaten.

Spinks was a light-heavyweight champion and an International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion. He was stripped of his IBF title.

Love takes lead in Phoenix Open

Norman wins Palm Meadows golf tournament

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 31, (AP): Greg Norman of Australia fired a 2-under-par 70 today for a one-shot victory in the \$360,000 Palm Meadows Cup golf tournament over the par-72, 6,430-metre (5,877-yard) Palm Meadows resort course.

Norman finished the tournament with a four round total of 272, 16-under-par, to collect a cheque \$60,000 and a \$20,000 automobile.

Tateo Ozaki of Japan carded a final round of 68 to take second spot on 273, one shot in front of former US Masters champion Bernhard Langer of West Germany, who shot a 69 to finish 274.

Carded Former British Open champion Norman, touring professionally for Palm Meadows, carded four consecutive sub-par rounds of 69-66-67-70 in difficult rainy conditions.

The bad weather that plagued the tournament for the first three days continued today. A television cameraman was hit by high

tning, but was not seriously injured.

Norman said he had played to "only 85 per cent" of his ability. "I putted better than I felt I could have been 22 or 24 under par," he said.

Norman, leading by one shot, said he had played the 18th hole — surrounded by water — very conservatively.

"I checked the scores with two people to confirm that I was one shot ahead," said Norman.

Norman's third victory in a row and his second straight tournament win in Australia following his Australian Open triumph, late last year.

Ozaki earned \$35,600 for second place and a bonus of \$6,600 for his course-record equalling 65 yesterday.

Langer, troubled by a painful back injury, had two late birdies

to grab third spot and \$22,770.

Joint overnight leaders Roger Mackay and Peter McWhinney, both of Australia, cracked under the final day pressure.

Mackay carded a 1-over 73 to finish fourth at 275 with American David Tentis, while McWhinney was a one-way slide, tumbling from first to 15th place with a closing round of 79.

American Mark O'Meara (68-71-68-71) finished sixth with Australian Tony Painter.

Scotman Gordon Brand Jr. (68-70-67-75) was 10th and Britain's Ian Woosnam, last year's highest money winner, was 15th after rounds of 71-68-68-74.

Phoenix Open

In Scottsdale, Arizona, Davis Love finished three of his final six holes yesterday to take a two stroke lead over Fred Couples into the final round of the \$650,000 Phoenix Golf Open tournament.

Love had an uneven day that included eight birdies and three bogeys for a five-under-par 66

and stood at 16-under-par 197 after 54 holes.

"I didn't do anything exciting but I played better than I did yesterday. I tried to play smart today and I plan to do the same tomorrow," said Love, who is looking for his second career victory in his third year on the PGA Tour.

Couples, who began the day with the first of two eagles, fired a third round 67 for a 14-under-par 199 total.

Eagled He eagled the first hole with a wedge shot from 125 yards and eagled the par-five 15th hole on a 35-foot putt.

"Davis is playing pretty darn good and it's going to be difficult to catch him," said Couples.

David Frost of South Africa was alone in third at 203, while Sandy Lyle of Britain and Chip Beck were tied for fourth place at 204. Beck, the second round leader, had a miserable day as he shot a four-over-par 75.

The winner today will collect \$117,000.

In Oahu, Hawaii, Chi Chi Rodriguez won three of the first nine holes yesterday to take the lead over his three legendary opponents in the \$360,000 inaugural Senior Skins game.

Rodriguez' three Skins were worth a total of \$40,000 Arnold Palmer was the only other player to win a Skin over the first nine holes of this two-day contest.

Gary Player and Sam Snead were shut out, but either could take the lead in today's first hole which will be worth \$80,000 with the purses from yesterday's last three holes carried over.

The Senior Skins game, a spin-off of the PGA Skins game which started in 1983, features a format where prize money is offered on every hole — \$10,000 for the first six, \$20,000 for the seventh through 12th and \$30,000 for each of the last six holes.

Only a player who wins the hole outright can collect. If any players tie for a hole, the prize money is carried over to the next hole.

Norman: victory

Chitalada stops Kamishiro in seventh round

OSAKA, Japan, Jan 31, (AP): Thailand's Sot Chitalada, the World Boxing Council flyweight champion, needed seven rounds and Japan's Hiroki Ioka, the strawweight champ, needed the full 12 as both retained their titles with knockouts today.

Against Sot, challenger Hideaki Kamishiro of Japan became defenseless in the seventh round after suffering a cut over his right eye in the second round and over his left eye in the seventh.

Referee Steve Crosson of the United States stopped the scheduled 12-round match at the end of the seventh before more than 13,000 spectators at Osaka Castle Hall.

Punished Sot, superior to the challenger on both defense and attack, punished Kamishiro, ranked ninth by the WBC, with fast left jabs and combinations.

In the strawweight battle, Ioka was unable to find his form through most of the bout, but became aggressive in the final round and knocked down challenger Lee Kyung-Yung of South Korea with a barrage of powerful rights and 1-2 combinations.

Lee rose to his feet, but US referee Martin Denkin stopped the fight when Ioka again sent Lee reeling with a series of punches. The knockout time was 1 minute, 36 seconds of the 12th round.

For Sot, it was his sixth defense of the title he wrested from Mexico's Gabriel Bernal in 1984.

It was Ioka's first defense of his title as the newly created strawweight division.

Sot improved his record to 14 victories, including nine by knockout, against one defeat and one draw. This was Kamishiro's first defeat after seven victories.

Sot weighed in at 111 3-4 pounds (50.69 kilograms) against Kamishiro's 111 1-2 pounds (50.58 kilograms).

Against Lee, Ioka was unable to fight from medium range, taking advantage of his longer reach, as Lee continuously attacked from short range in most of the rounds. The two fighters fought almost evenly through the 11th round.

Ioka has 10 victories, including six knockouts, against no defeats. Lee, the top-ranked contender, dropped to 11-1.

Both fighters weighed in at an identical 105 pound (47.6 kilograms).

The Thai champion told reporters, "I attacked the challenger cautiously. When Kamishiro cut his eye in the second round, I thought I could win."

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Both fighters weighed in at an identical 105 pound (47.6 kilograms).

The Thai champion told reporters, "I attacked the challenger cautiously. When Kamishiro cut his eye in the second round, I thought I could win."

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SPORTS

Liverpool
trounce
Aston Villa

LONDON, Jan 31. (Reuters): A perfect John Barnes header off an equally perfect cross from Peter Beardsley set English soccer giant Liverpool on the way to a 2-0 Football Association (FA) Cup triumph at Aston Villa today.

The devastating strike from Liverpool's close season acquisitions in the 53rd minute came after Villa, the Second Division leaders, had soaked up unrelenting pressure in the first half of the fourth round tie.

Any hopes the home side may have had of snatching a goal and dealing the League pacesetters only their second defeat of the season dissolved when Barnes header eluded Villa keeper Nigel Spinks in front of a 48,000 crowd.

Then Beardsley added a second four minutes from time as he slotted the ball through a demoralised Villa defence past a diving Spinks.

Liverpool have lost only once this season to arch-rivals Everton in the League Cup. They lead the First Division by 17 points with 19 wins and five draws in 24 matches.

In Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup third round Hamilton beat Meadowbank 2-0.

Kuwait
Malayalee
Samajam
trophy

A ELEVEN-A-SIDE football tournament for Indians will commence in Fahaheel on Friday, February 12.

The tournament for Kuwait Malayalee Samajam trophy is open to all Indian football teams in Kuwait.

Matches will be played in the ground situated behind Fahaheel Cinema and will be on knock-out basis.

The tournament committee has requested all Indian teams to take part in the forthcoming tournament by registering their team either with Hassan Thakkodi (3714487 between 4 and 7 pm) or Rajan Daniel (2638303 between 5 and 7 pm) before February 5.

The tournament is being sponsored by Sana Household.

Kuwait Malayalee Samajam, a socio-cultural organisation of Keralites is organising the tournament as a part of their month-long celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of the organisation.

Napoli extend
lead at top

ROME, Jan 31. (Reuters): Diego Maradona's Napoli extended their lead at the top of the Italian First Division to four points today with a comprehensive 3-1 away win at Ascoli.

Ascoli enjoyed brief glory after their Brazilian striker Casagrande scored in a counter-attack in the 11th minute, but three minutes later Napoli's Argentine captain equalised from the penalty spot and after that the champions were in command.

In the 27th minute Bruno Giordano put Napoli ahead after a cross from Brazilian striker Careca, who himself scored their third goal in the 49th minute from a neat pass by defender Giovanni Francini.

Maradona's younger brother Hugo watched the match from the Ascoli benches. Hugo, 18, has failed to find a regular place in Ascoli's first team since he joined this season.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Matter upsets

GUARUJA, Brazil, Jan 31. (Reuters): Luiz Mattar of Brazil upset Eliot Teltscher of the United States today, beating the top seed 6-3 in the final of the \$10,000 Guaruja Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Mattar, the number two seed and Brazil's leading player, took 90 minutes to defeat the American, who was playing in Brazil for the first time.

Fendick wins

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 31. (Reuters): American Patty Fendick won the Auckland international women's tennis tournament today by adjusting her hat and breaking the concentration of her opponent, Britain's Sara Gomer.

Fendick used the delaying tactic when she was trailing in the second set tie-breaker. She won the next five points and took the final 6-3 7-6.

BAD LIGHT SAVES AUSSIES FROM MORE EMBARRASSMENT

Australia collapse against England

SYDNEY, Jan 31. (Reuters): Bad light saved Australia from further embarrassment after they had collapsed to 164 for seven in their first innings on the third day of the Bicentennial Test against England today.

The Australians, who had no answer to the wiles of spinners John Emburey and Eddie Hemmings on a two-paced turning pitch, still need 62 runs to avoid the follow-on. England scored 425 in their first innings.

Heavy clouds and rain took the players off soon after the tea interval and play was abandoned by the umpire 30 minutes before the scheduled close.

Australia, resuming at 14 for no wicket, were in strife from the moment David Boon was caught behind off Neil Foster after adding just two to his overnight

score of 12.

Foster bowled beautifully but it was David Capel, with only one Test wicket to his name before today, who really put the Australian innings on the skids.

The seam bowler from Northamptonshire dismissed unhappy opener Geoff Marsh for five before claiming the prize wicket of Australian captain Allan Border.

Border was nearly caught off his first ball hooking but minutes later he tried the same shot and Chris Broad took a good catch. Border's irresponsible dismissal for two left Australia in dire straits at 34 for three.

Graceful Dean Jones and Mike Veletta, with a mixture of luck and graceful shots, stemmed the tide until after lunch, putting on 48 runs before Veletta chanced his

arm once too often.

Dropped by Tim Robinson soon after the interval, Veletta went for another sweep against Hemmings in the next over and was caught at backward short leg by Emburey for 22.

Jones, spilled by Emburey off Hemmings before lunch, would not have reached his 50 but for a dreadful error by wicketkeeper Bruce French.

The Australian number three tried for a big blow against Hemmings on 46, missed, but French fumbled with Jones feet out of his crease.

Glorious Jones reached 50 off 110 balls with a glorious straight drive off Emburey. But six runs later he caught Emburey, bowled Hemmings combination finally got rid of him and reduced Australia to 116 for five.

The two spinners, who have bowled 41 overs between them, never gave the Australians a breather.

But it was a return to pace by captain Mike Gatting which quickly earned another breakthrough.

Settlement

Steve Waugh, the last recognised Australian batsman, had studiously garnered 27 runs in 65 minutes before Graham Dilley had him caught behind in the first over of a new spell.

Dilley's lbw dismissal of Greg Dyer for nought turned collapse into near-rout but unseasonal Sydney rain frustrated England's chances of forcing a follow-on at least until tomorrow.

Hemmings has taken two for

46, Dilley two for 35 and Capel two for 13 off six overs. The Test celebrates 200 years of white settlement in Australia.

Scoreboard

England first innings 425
Australia first innings (14 for no wicket overnight)
D. Boon c French b Foster 12
G. Marsh c French b Capel 5
D. Jones c Emburey b Hemmings 56
A. Border c Broad b Capel 2
M. Veletta c Emburey b Hemmings 22
S. Waugh c French b Dilley 27
P. Sleep not out 20
G. Dyer lbw b Dilley 0
C. French not out 7
Extras (lb-7 sb-5 w-1) 13
Total for (seven wickets) 164
Fall of wickets: 1-18 2-25 3-34 4-82 5-116 6-147 7-153.
To bat: A. Dodemaide, C. McDermott.

Bowling to date: Dilley 11-3-35-2 (Sub 1v), Foster 14-4-19-1, Emburey 21-8-44-0, Capel 6-3-13-2, Hemmings 17-3-46-2.



England's bowler Eddie Hemmings in action yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Al Dihani wins shooting competition

UNDER the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, who deputised Information Minister, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad, the first HH Crown Prince Shooting championship ended yesterday.

The Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad, Governor of the capital Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Sabah, Chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Salman Al Homoud, President of the Kuwait Football Federation Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad and many other dignitaries attended the closing ceremony.

Over 100 players from the three categories — youths, beginners and advanced — took part in the championship.

After four days of competitions in three categories, Nayef Al Dihani of Ahmadi Shooting Society won the first place and HH the Crown Prince's Cup after shooting 186 skeets out of 200, followed with the same score by Fahd Al Dihani of the same society in second place. Sheikh Salem Al Jaber Al Homoud Al Sabah came third with 180 skeets.

In the youths category, Sheikh



Picture shows Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak presenting HH the Crown Prince Cup to Nayef Al Dihani.

Ahmad Salem Al Ali won the first place scoring 61 out of 75 skeets, followed by Mishal Al Hamad in the second place and Sayer Al Dihani in the third.

In the beginners category, Meshal Al Tahous won the first place scoring 42 out of 50 skeets.

while Ahmad Al Shahoumi and Mejbil Al Mutairi won the second and third places.

Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak gave away the cups and prizes to winners at the end of the function.

During the ceremony, a num-

ber of sheikhs were invited to show their skills in shooting. They included Sheikh Salman Al Homoud, Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak, and Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad. Souvenir shields were exchanged during the ceremony by a number of dignitaries.

Butler defeats Lewis

STUTTGART, West Germany, Jan 31. (Reuters): Carl Lewis, opening his preparations for the defence of his four gold medals at the Seoul Olympics this year, tasted defeat today in his only indoor competition of the winter season.

Lewis was well beaten by fellow-American James Butler in the men's 200 metres at the star-studded world meeting event. Butler, a 27-year-old journeyman sprinter with no great record, clocked 20.68 seconds to beat Lewis by 0.15 seconds with world champion Calvin Smith, also of the United States, a distant third.

Good shape Lewis said before the race that he felt in good shape and would use his only indoor appearance of the winter as a launch to his build-up for Seoul.

But he got off to a slow start and though he came close to catching Butler, who was in the outside lane, on the final bend, he looked helpless as the race win-

ners smoothly moved away up the home straight.

Lewis stopped dead as he crossed the line and stared disconsolately at the ground for some time before slowly walking over to shake Butler's hand.

He was not the only American Olympic champion to suffer defeat. Evelyn Ashford, who won the women's 100 metres gold in Los Angeles, was edged out by Nellie Fiere-Cooman of the Netherlands in the 60 metres.

Fiere-Cooman, the world and European indoor champion, surged out of the blocks to open a gap of more than a metre and though Ashford, now 30, steadily closed on her, the Dutch woman held on to win by 0.01 seconds in 7.21.

The outstanding race of the 600,000 mark (\$360,000) meeting also produced the biggest confusion. Michael Franks ran a brilliant men's 400 metres to beat fellow-Americans Danny Everett and Walter McCoy and his time was

initially given as a world record 45.34 seconds.

But a fault in the electronic timing was later announced and Franks' time was corrected to 46.19 seconds, leaving East German world champion Thomas Schoenlebe's record intact at 45.41.

Two other Americans who did not disappoint were Mark Witherspoon and Larry Myricks.

Witherspoon surged through the final 15 metres to beat Ernest Obeng of Britain in the men's 60 metres, clocking 6.75 seconds. Myricks won the men's long jump with a leap of 8.12 metres, clearing the eight-metre mark four times in all and beating world champion silver medalist Robert Emmiyan of the Soviet Union.

Missed Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union failed in three attempts on his own world indoor record of 5.97 metres and missed the chance to win the most lucrative prize on offer, a Mercedes car.

Norman and Jansher to meet in squash final

ANTWERP, Belgium, Jan 31. (Reuters): Ross Norman of New Zealand moved to within one match of winning a \$26,000 diamond-studded squash ball when he beat Australian Brett Martin 9-6 9-6 9-3 in the semifinals of the Belgian Grand Prix tournament yesterday.

The ball has been offered by the organisers to the first player to win the tournament three times in a five-year period and Norman won here in 1986 and 1987.

"The prospect of winning the trophy doesn't make me more nervous," Norman said. "It's just another pay check."

Norman, the 1986 world champion and currently ranked number four in the world, took the initiative early in each of the first two games but his Belgium-based opponent rallied stoutly, making superb use of drop shots.

Both times, though, unforced errors ruined Martin's fightback and in the third game, Norman finally asserted complete authority over the Australian to win in 43 minutes.

"I always have trouble when I play Ross," Martin said. "I'm just not fit enough for him."

In today's final Norman will play world champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan, who beat Briton Phil Kenyon 9-1 9-2 9-6 in the other semifinal.

Norman said playing the top seed was "just another job."

"If you have played 10 years of professional squash like me, it really is just another game," he said. "And Jansher is beatable... as long as you believe that, you stand a chance."

Dominant Jansher, 18, said he had not been so dominant in the third game against the fourth-seeded Kenyon because "I relaxed a bit and made some mistakes. But I'm satisfied with the way I played."

"I'll try my best tomorrow, but Norman is really playing good now," he said.

Kenyon said: "It took me a long time to adjust to the different kind of ball, it bounced so much higher and I just couldn't get a feel for it."

One-day
international
in Sharjah

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Jan 31. (AP): New Zealand will compete with India and Sri Lanka in a one-day international cricket series at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates in March, the New Zealand Cricket Council announced today.

New Zealand officials said the team would depart after the last of four one-day internationals against England on March 19.

Four players, Martin and Jeff Crowe, Martin Snodden and John Bracewell, have indicated they will be unavailable for the series for personal reasons.

The tournament will mark New Zealand's second appearance in Sharjah.

The Kiwis took part, along with India and Pakistan, in the Asia Cup in April, 1986, losing to Pakistan in the semifinals by 10 wickets.

Teams at this year's tournament will meet twice before the finalists are decided.

Broad apologises

SYDNEY, Jan 31. (Reuters): England opener Chris Broad will write a letter to the Australian Cricket Board apologising for his behaviour yesterday when he knocked a stump out of the ground in frustration after being bowled for 139.

Broad issued a statement today saying he knew his show of petulance, which earned him a fine of \$900 from England officials, was inexcusable.

The left-hander slammed his bat into his wicket after Australian medium-pace Steve Waugh had duped him into playing on, ending his 434-minute innings.

South Australia cruise to victory over Sri Lanka

ALICE SPRINGS, Australia, Jan 31. (Reuters): South Australia cruised to a six-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in a one-day cricket match here today.

Former Test opener Andrew Hilditch led the state side to their 132 target with 53 not out.

With less than a fortnight remaining before the one-off Test against Australia in Perth, the Sri Lankans have only two more matches — against Victorian Country and Victoria — to sort out their batting problems. Their top scorer today was all-rounder Asanka Gurusinghe with 29.

The tourists' only consolation was a three for 38 haul by medium pacer Aravinda de Silva.

Scoreboard

SRI LANKA
B. Kuruppi lbw b George 0
S. Kalperatunga b George 5
A. Gurusinghe c Phillips b Zesers 29
A. de Silva c O'Connor b Pyke 1
A. Ranatunga run out 16
R. Madugalle b May 0
H. Tillakaratne c Hookes b
Gladiaga 10
G. de Alwis c Phillips b Gladiaga 6
G. Lebrooy c Hookes b Zesers 6
C. Ramanasayake not out 21
K. Amalean b Scott 7
Extras (lb-2 b-7 sb-9 w-12) 30
Total 131-39.3 overs
Fall of wickets: 1-0 2-17 3-24 4-53 5-67 6-77 7-82 8-98 9-102.
Bowling: George 6-0-32-2 (3w 4ab), Pyke 6-0-18-1 (5w 1ab), May 4-1-13-1 (1w 1ab), Zesers 10-3-18-2 (2w).

Old Boys overpower Gymkhana

By Riaz Chaudhry
GHULAM Haider played two marvellous innings for Old Boys Cricket Club as he thrashed Golden Star for unbeaten 86 runs and followed with 94 on Friday afternoon to help OBCC beat Lahore Gymkhana by 20 runs.

In the match of Morning Star Trophy at Airport-Jahra ground, OBCC after winning the toss batted first and amassed 166 runs before being all-out. Ghulam Haider batted splendidly and demonstrating excellent timing he sprayed his shots in all the corners of the ground.

He was caught while trying to smash a ball from Hameed for a six for the second time in the same over but Shafique held a beautiful catch on long-off boundary.

His well-made 94 runs contained a mighty six and 14 entertaining hits to the fence. Zafar Iqbal with 15 runs was the other



Ghulam Haider.

batman to reach the double figures. For LGCC Mazhar got three for 30 while Nadeem, Riaz and Hameed each took two wickets.

Needing 6.68 runs per over LGCC could manage just 146 losing six wickets in the process in the allotted 25 overs. Kaleem top-scored with 61 runs including four boundaries as Mazhar

21 and Nadeem 20 were the other batsmen to shine.

Abdul Waheed had the bowling honours for OBCC with four for 32 as Riaz Mian and Ghulam Haider shared two wickets between them. Zafar Iqbal fielded magnificently to hold two difficult catches at square leg.

Earlier on Thursday afternoon against Golden Star at Silver Tower ground, Old Boys scored 170 for six in 25 overs. Ghulam Haider's unbeaten 86 came with two sixes and nine boundaries.

Jamil 23 and Qamar 21 also batted well as Ejaz got two wickets for GSCC. Replying, GSCC reached 108 for two in 17 overs when umpires stopped the game because of poor light and declared it a draw.

Salim 32 and Javed Kaloo 20 were at the wicket when the match was abandoned. In the first encounter a fortnight earlier Old Boys beat Golden Star by eight wickets.

BTCC whip Pratapur

BTCC defeated Pratapur Stars by 63 runs in a challenge cricket match played at Yarmouk grounds on Friday.

Pratapur captain won the toss and elected to field. BTCC opened the innings through Mirza and Arif but their partnership was soon broken when Mirza was bowled by Mustafa with a total of 14 runs.

Fell Srinivasan joined Arif but again the second wicket fell in another over of Hatim when he bowled Arif. Hatim took another wicket of George Barr in the same over with the total still at 14. BTCC were in great trouble with 14 runs and 3 wickets lost but Umer Baig joined. Srinivasan and managed to undo the damage.

Srinivasan and Umer Baig's partnership bagged 31 runs. However, Umer was out when he was caught when bowled by Mazhar. Umer's score was 23 runs.

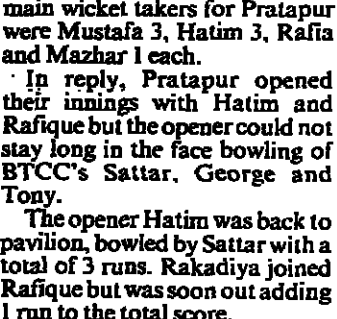
The other batsman reaching double figures were Tony with 11 runs, Srinivasan 52 with eleven boundaries. BTCC were all out for 116 runs in 16 overs. The main wicket takers for Pratapur were Mustafa 3, Hatim 3, Rafia and Mazhar 1 each.

In reply, Pratapur opened their innings with Hatim and Rafique but the opener could not stay long in the face bowling of BTCC's Sattar, George and Tony.

The opener Hatim was back to pavilion, bowled by Sattar with a total of 3 runs. Rakadiya joined Rafique but was soon out adding 1 run to the total score.

Unable So Sattar got 2 wickets. The other batsmen were unable to support their side and their wickets kept falling at regular intervals. The main wickets were taken by George Barr 4, Tony 3 and Sattar 3.

The Pratapur Stars could not surpass the total of BTCC and were all out for just 63 runs in 15 overs.

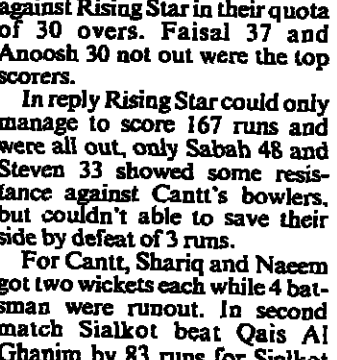
Falcon
beat
Arrows

Mustafa: 58 not out

KHEITAN Falcon Cricket Club (KFCC) defeated Flying Arrows Cricket Club (FACC) by five wickets in the encounter of Rahim League at KOC oval ground. Ahmadi on Thursday afternoon. The scores were:

Flying Arrows: 122 all-out in 23.5 overs (Mukesh 35 and Denick 28. Sarfraz, Tariq and Abid two wickets each).

Kheitan Falcon: 123 for five in 16 overs (Mustafa 58 not-out with eight fours, Abid Hussain 42. Denick and Iqbal two wickets each).

Quaid-e-Millat
defeat
Butt Brothers

Ishfaq: 53 runs

THE Quaid-e-Millat Cricket Club (QMCC) defeated Butt Brothers by four wickets on Friday morning at the Airport-Millat ground to win the Quaid-e-Millat Trophy.

Batting first Butt Brothers scored 162 runs. Naeem 66 and Naveed 29 were the main contributors. For QMCC Munir and Ansar claimed two wickets each.

Requiring 6.52 runs per over QMCC got home in 24 overs. Ishfaq 53, Jamil 28, Qamar 32 and Munir 20 (not out) were the main scorers.

Khalid was the most successful bowler for Butt Brothers with two wickets.

Exhibition match

MATSUYAMA, Japan, Jan 31. (AP): Martina Navratilova needed a tie-breaker before beating Chris Evert 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) today in a tennis exhibition match among four American women pros.